

BULLETIN

OF THE



1926

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Officers - - - - -	2	Annotated List of Birds Observed in Essex County	
Foreword - - - - - <i>Arthur P. Stubbs</i>	3	in 1926 - - - - - <i>Arthur P. Stubbs</i>	47
Birds of An Ocean Voyage <i>Glover M. Allen</i>	5	Protective Tubes for Birdskins <i>Albert P. Morse</i>	57
Ornithological Reminiscences of Ipswich Beach		Gull and Shore Bird Records at the "Sow and Pigs",	
<i>Charles Johnson Maynard</i>	13	Summer and Fall of 1926 <i>Arthur P. Stubbs</i>	60
Ipswich River Bird Trip - <i>Ralph Lawson</i>	17	Heron Gulls Nesting in Salem Bay <i>Ralph Lawson</i>	62
The North American Races of <i>Falco Columbarius</i>		Alder Flycatchers - - - <i>S. G. Emilio</i>	63
<i>James L. Peters</i>	20	Shrikes Around a Banding Station <i>Arthur Morley</i>	63
The 1926 Essex Co. Shooting Season <i>John C. Phillips</i>	27	Buff-Breasted Sandpiper at Ipswich <i>S. G. Emilio</i>	65
Nature on the Fay Estate Historical and Ornithological		June Swans - - - - - <i>Ralph Lawson</i>	66
<i>Arthur P. Stubbs</i>	30	A Very Large Flight of Guillemots <i>Ralph Lawson</i>	66
Bird Banding Results for 1926 <i>Willis H. Ropes</i>	36	Feet to Talons - - - - - <i>Ralph Lawson</i>	67
A Local Christmas Bird Census <i>S. G. Emilio</i>	40	Calendar for 1926 of the Essex County Ornithological	
The Doctor Bands a Virginia Rail		Club of Massachusetts - - - - -	68
<i>Edward G. Rowland, M. D.</i>	44	List of Members of the Essex County Ornithological	
		Club of Massachusetts - - - - -	70

BULLETIN

OF THE

Essex County Ornithological Club

OF

Massachusetts

1926

FIFTY CENTS

COPYRIGHT 1927

BY THE

ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
OF MASSACHUSETTS

Salem, Massachusetts

OFFICERS OF THE
ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

1926

President

FRANK W. BENSON

Vice-President

ALBERT P. MORSE

Secretary

RALPH LAWSON
88 Washington Square
Salem, Massachusetts

Treasurer

S. GILBERT EMILIO
156 Hobart Street
Danvers, Massachusetts

Recorder

ARTHUR P. STUBBS
14 Fiske Avenue
Lynn, Massachusetts

Council

RICHARDS B. MACKINTOSH
WILBUR D. MOON
ARTHUR MORLEY

Gift
Essex Co.
Ornithological Club
O 22, 1932
E
E1 S5
S1 E3
1926

BULLETIN
OF THE
ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
OF MASSACHUSETTS
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

ISSUED ANNUALLY

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

RALPH LAWSON

ARTHUR P. STUBBS

S. G. EMILIO

DECEMBER, 1926

SALEM, MASS.

VOLUME VIII, No. 1

FOREWORD

ARTHUR P. STUBBS

Nineteen twenty-six can hardly be considered as having been an eventful year in our Club life, but it has seen much quiet, effective work by the membership, especially in the field. Field work being the real life of an organization such as ours, the hope of the Essex County Ornithological Club for a long existence seems to be very good.

An active interest has been shown at every meeting, even when no special entertainment has been provided. In fact impromptu talks by individual members, giving their recent field experiences, have, in several instances, created as much interest as a talk by a trained speaker.

Moving pictures illustrating a speaker's remarks were a new feature this year. Three such talks were given. Especial credit should be extended to two of our members for their skill in picturing and reproducing the very interesting phases of their trip into the wilds of New Brunswick, the past summer. Their kindness in permitting the Club to share their sports in this manner is surely appreciated.

The Club's special activities, the Bulletin and Camp, at one time somewhat of a problem as to their support, are now well in

hand. A movement, early in the year, to increase the use of the Camp by the members, resulted in several interesting gatherings there during the spring, on Wednesday evenings. Summer vacations cut these short. Late returns of several members to town and the chilly fall evenings made these gatherings, at that time, unattractive, but we hope with the return of spring that these meetings will be resumed.

The practice of placing mounted birds and bird skins on the table for study at each meeting has been continued with profit. Several birds "in the flesh" intended for the Peabody Museum collections were also shown. Lists of birds with dates of arrival or departure were put on the blackboard from time to time, with the object of keeping the members informed in regard to bird movements and to call attention to species about to arrive.

The Twentieth Annual Ipswich River Bird Trip was successful in spite of discouraging weather. The initiation at the "Pines" of a qualified member into the mysteries of the Order of Ornithorynchus was a fine bit of work and the "Scribe" has reason to be proud of the ritual which he evolved.

The additional set field trips, laid out a few years ago, were omitted with the exception of that on Washington's Birthday. This was well attended and produced a bird list with several good items.

No members have been lost by death during the year, enough new members have come in to make up losses of the past and the Club looks forward to the coming year with confidence and pleasant anticipation.

The late fall of 1926 will long be remembered by Massachusetts ornithologists, for the great flight of white owls, which descended on New England, and extended as far south as the Carolinas. At the time of writing it is not possible to obtain a complete account of this migration, but something along this line will be attempted for our next issue.

BIRDS OF AN OCEAN VOYAGE

GLOVER M. ALLEN

On June 12, 1926, I sailed from New York for Southampton, England, there to join other members of the Harvard African Expedition, with whom on June 24, I again sailed, from Southampton, on our way to western Africa, stopped a day at the Canary Islands, and arrived at Monrovia, Liberia, on July 7, in latitude 8° north. In November the return journey was made; from November 11 to 26, to Southampton; and November 30 to December 7, from the latter port to New York. These two traverses afforded an opportunity to watch for sea life at two different seasons of the year, the first in early summer when most northern birds are occupied with their nesting, the second in early winter when they are seeking winter quarters.

One who has made a long ocean voyage cannot fail to be impressed by the ever changing aspect of the sea, now calm under glorious skies, now turbulent and menacing with stormy winds and sweeping waves. He is further impressed by the fact that a pelagic or open-sea existence for birds must require a high degree of specialization. There must be the ability to cover immense distances in the daily search for food, the power of sustained and untiring flight, the ability to rest at night or by day on the surface of the sea, and perhaps too a sense of localities and directions enabling the bird to find its way to ancestral breeding places over vast stretches of sea without visible landmarks to guide it. To maintain life under such conditions and amid such spacious surroundings seems to call for a very high degree of adaptation. The distribution of pelagic birds over these wastes of sea becomes thus a matter of extreme interest, concerning which it is difficult to secure exact information.

Our vessel left New York at midnight, June 12, and by the early forenoon was already a hundred miles on her way eastward. Wilson's Petrels (*Oceanites oceanica*) were seen here and there mostly at a distance from the ship, skimming about over oily-looking patches of water. These birds reach our latitudes from the south in early June or perhaps before. I presume they follow the general course of the Gulf Stream into the North Atlantic, but of their routes and abundance there we know relatively little.

No more of them were seen during the entire voyage across to England, though no prolonged watch was kept. It is true, however, that this species is rare on the British coasts. It was not until we were crossing the Bay of Biscay, June 25, on our way south to the west coast of Africa, that we picked up the Wilson's Petrels again. Here in about latitude 44° north, a few appeared zigzagging back and forth across our wake, frequently stopping to pick things from the surface of the sea, pattering their feet on the water as they did so, but never actually alighting. Their feet with yellow membranes were easily discerned projecting beyond their tails in flight. Why had we seen none in the intervening stretch of ocean? Is there a vast area in the mid-Atlantic from which they are absent?

On the two days following, June 26 and 27, with smooth sea and a breeze from the northeast, the numbers of these birds increased as we steamed south, now in latitude 33° . On July 1, a day out from the Canary Islands, the petrels were again abundant, after two days of scarcity. All day they were following in our wake with a brisk wind at their heels from the northeast. Single birds that I watched, would beat back and forth, not far astern, and on reaching the outer edge of the wake would wheel to cross it again, almost always using their feet to paddle momentarily in the water to assist in making the turn. Sometimes they seemed to pick up some small object disturbed from the depths by the screw. On succeeding days these petrels were with us all the way to the Liberian coast, July 7, but when the wind was against them (for on the last three days it was steadily from southeast), they did less zigzagging over the wake, following instead a nearly straight course and going a little better than our 10 or 11 knots. There must have been great numbers scattered over the sea, for whenever two or three stopped to flutter over some flotsam, others at once joined from every direction until in a few moments thirty or forty were hovering like great butterflies over the spot. As the days became somewhat oppressively hot, under the tropical sun, it seemed to me that the numbers of petrels became distinctly less in the noon hours, when possibly the birds were resting on the surface of the sea, for one I watched flew off far to one side of the vessel and twice alighted on the water, sitting high at the stern like a miniature gull.

On the return voyage north in early November, a few of these petrels were seen as far north as Cape Verde—single birds usually well off to one side of the ship. When seas are rough and clouds dark, their white rump is all that is visible at a distance, so well does the rest of the plumage blend with the dark color of the sea. Apparently the birds were now (November 13) mostly to the south of these latitudes for but few were seen and of these the last was just south of Cape Verde, bringing up the rear of the migrating host already well on its way to the southern breeding grounds and the Antarctic summer.

Shearwaters of several species were seen at times during the voyage. On June 13, about 700 miles east of New York a little group of four Greater Shearwaters passed us, weaving back and forth with outstretched wings on the short turns. We were well out in the warm waters, and many pink-edged Portuguese Men-o'-war were floating by. No more birds were seen until the 16th, when almost in mid-Atlantic and about on the parallel of southern England ($45^{\circ} 48'$ north, 31° east at noon), a number of Greater Shearwaters appeared in early forenoon and late afternoon. Here too there passed us two or three Fulmars, close in, looking very white and ghostly as they scaled along on rigidly stretched pinions.

On June 18 we were off the outer part of the English Channel, passing Bishop's Rock at 5.30 in the morning. One or two gulls now appeared for the first time, their numbers increasing as the day wore on, until by late afternoon at least fifty were escorting us, mostly the Lesser Black-back (*Larus fuscus*) and a few Herring Gulls. Five days later, we were once more at sea, crossing the channel from Southampton. On this occasion a good many Murres were seen, singly or in pairs, swimming on the surface or diving with opened wings as the boat passed. The following day crossing the Bay of Biscay, several small groups of what seemed to be Manx Shearwaters were passed, small and sooty in appearance with more pointed wing tips than in Greater Shearwater from which they also differed in their less stiff wings and slightly flickering flight between the characteristic soaring intervals. Here too a large Skua Gull (*Stercorarius skua*) was seen, a large brown gull-like bird with a good deal of light marking in the wings. A day out from Teneriffe, Canary Islands, a few

large Shearwaters again appeared, perhaps the Mediterranean Shearwater, as well as a single dark bird.

On June 29 we went ashore on Gran Canary of the Canary Islands, making the usual tourist's pilgrimage to the Mercedes Forest high above the sea level, where wild Canaries trilled softly in the trees and a pair of Ravens croaked and soared above a wooded cliff. The day following we were again steering south from Las Palmas, one of the islands of this group, and saw numbers of Shearwaters of two species in late afternoon. The larger brown-looking birds with light breasts, were probably the Mediterranean type of Shearwater, the smaller dark birds were perhaps *Puffinus bailloni* with a characteristically different flight, quicker wing strokes with greater amplitude of beat, and a shorter skim on out-stretched wings. Three or four Herring Gulls and one or two Lesser Black-backs were flying about the harbor, probably non-breeding birds spending the summer here. On November 18, when stopping again in this harbor, the numbers of both species had much increased, the Herring Gulls greatly out-numbering the smaller species. The former were present at this season much farther south for on November 12 there were a dozen or so in the roadstead off Freetown, Sierra Leone.

On July 2 we were off Cape Blanco and ran most of the day with the African coast faintly visible on the eastern skyline. The Wilson's Petrels were following us in numbers and at noon four Noddy Terns, the first Terns seen since leaving England, followed abreast of us, now coming very near, now dropping far off to one side. In straight away flight their tapering tails were held closely shut making graceful lines of flow.

Later in the afternoon of July 2, I was surprised to see a few unmistakable Jaegers, apparently Pomarine (*Stercorarius pomarinus*). These presently were joined by others until sixteen birds in a loose flock were following us, flying high and steadily, now at a distance of a mile or so over our wake, now drawing up close astern or off the quarter. They were evidently all immature birds, with the central pair of tail-feathers hardly, if at all, elongated in most cases. At least one was a wholly dark bird, but the others were light below. Occasionally one would playfully dart after another, both twisting and turning gracefully,

then recovering, would join the flock once more. One gave pursuit to a passing Noddy Tern. On the following days, July 3 and 4, the air became more muggy and the sky gradually clouded as we approached the outer limit of the rainy area of this coast. No more Jaegers were seen on the southward journey, but in November, when returning on the northward voyage, Jaegers again appeared when we were a day's run north of Freetown, Sierra Leone, in about the same region as before. The first were seen in the forenoon of the 13th, one or two birds, but as the day wore on their numbers increased until by noon about a dozen were accompanying us, and at sunset I counted 25. The next day two or three were again with us. This evening we were in sight of Cape Verde of the African coast. On succeeding days the Jaegers still kept with us, but when still a day's run (some 250 miles) south of Las Palmas, Canary Islands, the last two dropped astern and no more were seen. The presence of this species along the African coast from Sierra Leone to near the Canaries at this season, and more especially in July, is particularly interesting. At the latter season, adults should be on their Arctic breeding grounds, so that the presence of apparently immature birds in tropical latitude is perhaps to be explained on the ground that they were non-breeding young of the previous year. An oceanographic chart of these seas (shown me by Dr. H. B. Bigelow) indicates that the surface temperatures are not in general especially cool (20° - 25° C.) but along the shores of the continent in a narrow belt in about these latitudes there is an area of upwelling water from the depths that may have some effect on the ocean fauna making for a greater abundance of food for such birds. In general behavior these Jaegers were much like gulls, alternately flapping and then soaring for short distances in our wake or off to one side, usually on the lee; at times they would outstrip the vessel, only to drop back again, or after a period of flying, would settle gracefully upon the surface of the sea, where they would rest until the vessel was a half mile or less ahead, when they would come on again, overtaking us quickly. In picking up food scraps they would settle first on the water beside the morsel, instead of taking it on the wing. Often it seemed obvious that they alighted by pairs, and sometimes after the first ones had settled a number of others followed. At sunset they

would keep with us till nearly dark, then presently settle in a little group on the water, perhaps rising again once or twice, but finally remaining on the surface, where no doubt they passed the night. That nearly all were immature birds seemed evident from the fact that the central tail-feathers were elongated in but few, and then but an inch or so. Every phase of plumage was present from entirely sooty to white bellied with a neck-ring of darker. All showed white markings at the base of the primaries and some seemed to be moulting feathers at the junction of the primary and secondary wing-quills.

Of quite as much interest here as the Jaegers were those sea wanderers the phalaropes, three of which rose from the water at a distance on November 13, while we were steaming north off the coast of Portuguese Guinea (noon position $10^{\circ}9'$ north, $19^{\circ}6'$ west). Three days later at about 21° north, 17° west, we must have passed hundreds of them during the forenoon, singly usually or at times in little groups up to six. Often I could see them sitting on the water, riding high, head erect in characteristic pose, now and again dipping at the water with the bill. Once, two or three were gathered about some floating eelgrass, others were flying swiftly by, up or down wind, sometimes close at hand. The large size, pale backs and wings, the latter with prominent white cross-bar, seemed to indicate that they were Red Phalaropes (*Phalaropus* or *Crymophilus fulicarius*), as one might have expected. In a recent summary account of their migrations, Meinertzhagen (Ibis, 1925, p. 331) was unable to adduce any African record of this bird for October or November, and adds (p. 333): "There is probably another as yet undiscovered winter resort off the West African coast", a supposition that receives additional support from these observations. There is also a record of a bird taken in eastern Liberia, March 23, 1905 (H. Johnston: Liberia, vol. 2, p. 790, 1905). Possibly therefore, the winter resort predicted by Meinertzhagen, will be found to lie along these coasts from Liberia to Cape Verde in the area of cooler upwelling waters.

On November 16, with Cape Blanco of the African coast faintly visible at noon, I saw the first Kittiwake of the voyage north. Meanwhile we had aboard as guests two White Wagtails (*Motacilla alba*) that stayed in the shelter of the after deck or

at times flew up and sought the bow, sheltering among the winches and deck cargo. At least one of the Wagtails stayed by the ship until we reached the Canaries. A swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) was about the ship for a short while, and early in the morning and again toward late afternoon Shearwaters, possibly of two kinds, were seen in the distance. So frequent was it that Shearwaters were seen at the early and late times of day, that I imagined it was more than coincidence. Possibly many of these birds rest on the water during much of the daylight hours. By November 22, off the Spanish coast, Kittiwakes became plentiful and next day Gray Gulls (*Larus canus*), many of the latter showing the dark auricular patch. The Kittiwakes have a wonderful command of flight, tipping and trimming as on outstretched wings they hang over the wake or off the quarter, or dash madly down wind, check and turn, coming to a stationary position astern, all with only an occasional light beat of the wings.

By December 1, Cherbourg was left behind for the transatlantic passage. When a day's voyage out, the many Herring Gulls of the harbor had already been left behind, and the occasional small gulls seen were apparently Gray Gulls and Kittiwakes. It seems very doubtful if the large Herring Gull ever crosses in these latitudes from the European to the American coasts, or *vice versa*, so that Dr. Dwight's recent restoration of the American bird to subspecific status is no doubt warranted additionally by its geographic isolation. The Kittiwake, however, is a pelagic gull and there was but a single day, December 4, that I failed to see a few on the passage across. These were usually solitary birds. On December 3, when by noon we were a thousand miles from land, I found that I could count about three birds to every five minutes, which at our rate of speed meant that we passed three in every two miles. Evidently they are at this season scattered out over an immense stretch of sea.

December 5, we had reached the edge of the Grand Banks, nearly due south of Newfoundland. Coming on deck at 9 A. M. I began to see numbers of Little Auks (*Alle alle*.) Flock after flock got up or appeared to one side of our course, ranging in number from 12 to 30 birds, flying in a close line or strung out slightly, with occasional singles, pairs or groups of three. Keeping close to the surface of the water they would almost

invariably fly like bullets nearly parallel with our course, the nearer flocks gradually drawing in and ahead so as to cross our bow. Our ship was making about 24 knots so that the birds' speed must have been slightly greater, against the wind at that. A few times I saw singles or small flocks alight by plunging into the water from full flight and disappearing. A few murre (species?) were also seen. No doubt these birds are present on the Banks in numbers every winter.

Some day by piecing together many fragmentary observations such as those here recorded, we may attain a more accurate knowledge of the movements of such sea birds whose lives are so largely spent at great distances from shore.



ORNITHOLOGICAL REMINISCENCES OF IPSWICH BEACH

CHARLES JOHNSON MAYNARD

It was a bright autumn day in 1866 when I first stood on Ipswich Beach, and looking out over the water saw large numbers of terns flying about. I had never before seen these birds living, and with a young collector's eagerness to obtain birds new to him, I shot quite a number of specimens. All I secured were young-of-the-year birds, and I was completely puzzled when, after making them into skins and taking them home with other birds collected on that wonderful trip, I tried to identify them.

The only ornithological publication that I owned then was a copy of the ninth volume of the Pacific Railroad Survey, written by Baird, Cassin and Lawrence, which was considered the Bible of the American ornithologists at that time. There was quite a little variation among my terns but the descriptions of the young of the species which should occur along our coast in autumn were rather vague, and I could not decide definitely what species I had in hand. Accordingly I took the skins to Mr. E. A. Samuels who was Curator of the State Cabinet of Natural History which was stored in the basement of the State House in Boston, and who was then finishing his "Ornithology and Oology of New England." After looking over the skins and comparing them with a few adult terns in the collection, Mr. Samuels frankly told me he was unable to identify them in that plumage and advised me to take them to Dr. Henry Bryant who was curator of ornithology at the Boston Society of Natural History.

Dr. Bryant, whom I had previously met, having looked at my skins with considerable interest, also told me that he was unable to identify them as he had never made a special study of the group to which they belonged. He did know the adult terns, but not the young. I knew no one else who could assist me, so I was thrown on my own resources and determined that I would go behind the whole subject as far as I could and another season identify the young by tracing them back to their parents. So in the summer of 1867 I visited the dunes early enough to find the adult terns feeding their young, which were then well fledged, and by securing both together found that some of my young were

Wilson's, or as we now know them, Common Terns. I had, however, to visit the dunes the next year before I matched up the Arctic Terns with their young and was enabled to describe definitely for the first time the young-of-the-year of this species in autumn. The description I published in my "Naturalist's Guide" (pp. 152-155.) which, although written in 1869 was not published until 1870.

Later, I showed the skins that I had collected to Dr. J. A. Allen, whose extreme ornithological conservatism at that time was well known. He had been inclined to believe that Wilson's and Arctic Terns were one species, but he changed his opinion and thereafter considered them distinct.

Early in July 1868 I found a colony of about a dozen pairs of Least Terns nesting at Ipswich. They placed their eggs on the naked sand of a sloping area which was without vegetation of any description. This particular spot was situated just west of what I have known as the "Dune of the Headless Sailor." This large sandhill lay between it and the sea and although the terns have long since ceased to breed anywhere in the Ipswich dunes, the hill remains much the same as when I first knew it. It not only marks the locality where the Least Terns once nested but also marks the site of the grave of a sailor whose body minus the head, was buried on top of the dune.

In September 1870 I was fortunate enough to secure the first specimen of Foster's Tern to be taken in Massachusetts. The bird was in young-of-the-year dress, and Foster's Tern in this and winter plumage were called Havell's Terns, and that was what I called it and it was so recorded by Mr. William Brewster in the American Naturalist, Vol. VI, 1872, pg. 306.

Now Havell's Tern was described from either a young bird or one in winter plumage by Audubon in 1838, and in spite of the fact that the markings on the head had an unfinished appearance and the outer web of the outer tail feathers was dark instead of white, as many in terns, ornithologists were over thirty years in discovering that the so-called *Sterna havelli* was either the young or winter plumage of *Sterna fosteri*.

As late as 1874 we find one of our most distinguished ornithologists describing a retarded plumage of the young Arctic

Tern as *Sterna portlandica*! Truly, young terns are troublesome subjects, as most of us who try to identify them are aware.

In September, 1871 when I was with Messrs. William Brewster and H. W. Henshaw, the latter shot a Gull-billed Tern, *Gelochelidon nilotica*, on Ipswich Beach. No other specimen has since been taken in Massachusetts, to my knowledge.

The Piping Plover nested in the hollows of the dunes just behind the outer range of sand hills, in those days. There was little or no vegetation in these depressions but considerable debris in the shape of bits of wood and bark, broken shells, etc., and among these in a hollow scratched in the sand were deposited the eggs of these interesting birds; eggs that so nearly matched the sand in color that it required an experienced eye to detect them. As I entered one of the little valleys I would often be greeted by the peculiar long-drawn, minor whistle of the male which would circle about by running on the sand at some distance, doing his utmost to entice me away from the locality. When sitting, the female seldom flew at any time and simply ran to the neighboring beach in order to feed, returning, without rising, in the same way. As she also ran from her eggs when she saw me, I could not tell the exact spot from which she went, so I would look for her tracks on the top of the ridge which she had to cross in returning from the beach. Having found them, I would follow where they led quite to the nest. The increased number of tracks crossing and recrossing would always indicate when I was nearing the nest.

I want to mention here, as a matter of record, that when I went to the Magdalen Islands in 1874, (the year that I was marooned for ten days on Bird Rock,) I was much surprised to find the Piping Plover breeding on the sand dunes and long spits of Amherst Island, as commonly as I found it at Ipswich.

The first Long-billed Curlew that I ever saw flew past me as I stood on the beach at Ipswich in 1867. It was a short distance over the water and was moving leisurely, but when it noticed me it uttered one of those startling screams for which this species is noted, flew rapidly further out to sea, and continued its swift way southward. On several other occasions I saw a few, usually single birds, but never any very near. A few years later as I was walking along a lonely stretch of shore which lay between the

mouth of Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon, Florida, I saw a fine Long-billed Curlew standing on a sand-bar not a dozen yards away, with his head drawn in, apparently asleep. When I approached the bird merely looked up, and it was not until I was within twenty feet of it that it decided to fly, which it did quite slowly, going only a short distance and alighting in the shallow water, began to feed. I passed quite a number during that walk all equally tame. At that time and for some years after these birds were very common in winter along the Atlantic coast from the Carolinas to Florida. Now, as far as I know, not a single Long-billed Curlew visits the eastern coast of the United States.

Another bird then common on the hills of Ipswich was the "Esquimaux" Curlew, once exceedingly abundant in the autumn, but even then in the days of which I am writing, not very common, and now gone forever.

This brings to mind another extinct bird. About 1874 I was rowing across Plum Island sound one day to reach the mouth of the Ipswich river. The tide was running out with great force and I had to make considerable effort to hold my course in the whirling, rushing water. Suddenly a duck appeared very near the mouth of the Ipswich which I was confident was a Labrador. Although I had my gun with me, I knew if I attempted to take in my oars and pick it up, my boat would be whirled about so quickly that I could not shoot. The bird remained but a brief moment in sight then dived and I saw no more of it. A short time before I had had an opportunity of seeing the three Labrador Ducks in the collection of Mr. George A. Boardman, and I felt quite sure that my identification of the bird I saw was correct. If this *was* a Labrador Duck it was one of the last of the species and very probably the last to ever come to Ipswich.

IPSWICH RIVER BIRD TRIP

RALPH LAWSON

The twentieth annual trip was held on May 15 and 16, 1926. More than thirty members and guests made the journey down river.

April was rather cold with little rain and some snow. While a few straggling birds arrived at nearly their usual dates, the great mass of migrants was two to three weeks later than last year, (1925) until April 23, when favorable weather brought a veritable flood of birds of a rather few species. Again on May 3 another warm wave brought a host of migrants, including, strangely enough, a sprinkling of certain warblers which usually arrive later. For the next ten days the cool dry weather, which had prevailed with few interruptions all the spring, continued and then on May 13 on the eve of the River Trip a moderately warm wave arrived, and with it a great variety of birds.

The river was very low for this time of year and vegetation considerably retarded by the cool weather. It is significant that even two weeks later, when usually the most backward spring has made up for its shortcomings, many wild flowers which ordinarily pass their full bloom by May 30 were just beginning to blossom.

Decidedly unfavorable weather prevailed during the two days of the trip with east and northeast winds, much cloudiness and some fog and rain. In spite of this ninety-nine species of birds were observed in the valley of the Ipswich or near its mouth. It is noteworthy that but few individuals of each species were in evidence, even including the more common birds, and it is possible that cold easterly winds and thick weather along the coast had influenced the migration streams to flow north along the Connecticut and Hudson River valleys.

Three species not previously observed on these trips, namely the Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, the Barred Owl and the Green-winged Teal were seen. The Woodpecker was on the Proctor Estate, a great semi-wild area where extensive planting has been carried on for many years thus making it an arboretum of great beauty.

The evening and night of May 14 were spent by a party of

eight at the camp of Roger Bruley on the river near Danvers Center, from which point the Saturday morning trip proceeded on foot to the Middleton paper mills and thence by canoe back to Howe Station. The main party left Howe as usual about 2 P. M. on the 15th and from there on the regular route was followed, including the trip by motor boat from Ipswich to Little Neck.

An interesting though somewhat unscientific feature of the expedition was the initiation, at evening campfire, of two candidates for the Royal Order of the Ornithorhynchus, an aqueous branch of the Club which is open only to members or guests who have been so unfortunate as to become immersed in the river involuntarily. The formal ceremony carried through by the three charter members of the order, added greatly to the pleasure of the evening and furnished further memories for our encampments to come.

Thus have been completed twenty years of field work—days of intense interest and pleasure and evenings of camp-fires around which many friendships have grown, tales of adventure told, and where song and story have held sway.

The 1926 list of species observed is as follows:

7. Loon	270. Black-bellied Plover
51. Herring Gull	274. Semipalmated Plover
70. Common Tern	289. Bob-white
130. Red-breasted Merganser	300. Ruffed Grouse
133. Black Duck	Ring-necked Pheasant
139. Green-winged Teal	316. Mourning Dove
144. Wood Duck	331. Marsh Hawk
190. American Bittern	332. Sharp-shinned Hawk
194. Great Blue Heron	339. Red-shouldered Hawk
201. Green Heron	360. Sparrow Hawk
202. Black-crowned Night Heron	364. Osprey
228. Woodcock	368. Barred Owl
230. Wilson's Snipe	388. Black-billed Cuckoo
231. Dowitcher	390. Belted Kingfisher
242. Least Sandpiper	393. Hairy Woodpecker
246. Semipalmated Sandpiper	394c. Downy Woodpecker
254. Greater Yellow-legs	400. Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker
256. Solitary Sandpiper	412a. Northern Flicker
263. Spotted Sandpiper	417. Whip-poor-will

-
- | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| 423. | Chimney Swift | 616. | Bank Swallow |
| 428. | Ruby-throated Hum-
ming-bird | 624. | Red-eyed Vireo |
| 444. | Kingbird | 628. | Yellow-throated Vireo |
| 456. | Phoebe | 636. | Black and White Warbler |
| 467. | Least Flycatcher | 642. | Golden-winged Warbler |
| 477. | Blue Jay | 645. | Nashville Warbler |
| 488. | Crow | 648a. | Northern Parula Warbler |
| 493. | Starling | 652. | Yellow Warbler |
| 494. | Bobolink | 654. | Black-throated Blue
Warbler |
| 495. | Cowbird | 655. | Myrtle Warbler |
| 498. | Red-winged Blackbird | 657. | Magnolia Warbler |
| 501. | Meadowlark | 659. | Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| 507. | Baltimore Oriole | 662. | Blackburnian Warbler |
| 511b. | Bronzed Grackle | 667. | Black-throated Green
Warbler |
| 517. | Purple Finch | 672a. | Yellow Palm Warbler |
| | English Sparrow | 673. | Prairie Warbler |
| 529. | Goldfinch | 674. | Oven-bird |
| 540. | Vesper Sparrow | 681. | Maryland Yellow-throat |
| 542a. | Savannah Sparrow | 685. | Wilson's Warbler |
| 554. | White-crowned Sparrow | 686. | Canada Warbler |
| 558. | White-throated Sparrow | 687. | Redstart |
| 560. | Chipping Sparrow | 704. | Catbird |
| 563. | Field Sparrow | 705. | Brown Thrasher |
| 581. | Song Sparrow | 724. | Short-billed Marsh Wren |
| 584. | Swamp Sparrow | 735. | Chickadee |
| 587. | Towhee | 755. | Wood Thrush |
| 595. | Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 756. | Veery |
| 608. | Scarlet Tanager | 759b. | Hermit Thrush |
| 612. | Cliff Swallow | 761. | Robin |
| 613. | Barn Swallow | 766. | Bluebird |
| 614. | Tree Swallow | | |

THE NORTH AMERICAN RACES OF
FALCO COLUMBARIUS

JAMES L. PETERS

American ornithologists for two generations have recognized three races of *Falco columbarius*, viz. *F. c. columbarius*, *F. c. suckleyi*, and *F. c. richardsonii*. In 1922 Swann described (Bull. B. O. C. 42, p. 66) a fourth, *F. c. bendirei* based on a migrant taken at Fort Walla Walla, Washington, and in the same year that author, in the second edition of his "Synopsis of the Accipitres," diagnosed the characters and outlined the range of the four North American races of *Falco columbarius*. While the characterizations are not very good and his ranges barely outlined, nevertheless he has gauged the situation correctly, though many ornithologists do not seem to be aware of this fact.

Of the four North American races of Pigeon Hawk, *suckleyi* is the darkest and occupies the smallest range; the depth of coloration in the remaining races after *suckleyi*, is: *columbarius*, *bendirei*, *richardsonii*. Thus we find the darkest birds at opposite ends of the range of the species, the palest in the south middle portion where *richardsonii* occupies a comparatively limited area, while north of the latter and between the darkest forms we find the widespread *bendirei*.

There are still some doubtful points that can only be cleared up by field work and specimens from critical localities.

The following review is based on the 120 or more specimens of *Falco columbarius* in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, supplemented by 21 skins in Mr. A. C. Bent's collection and 28 from Alaska from the joint collections of the U. S. National Museum and the Biological Survey.

FALCO COLUMBARIUS COLUMBARIUS L.

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Adult male: top of head, scapulars and interscapulars slate color to blackish slate shading to slate gray on the inner secondaries, lower back, rump and upper tail coverts, all the feathers with black shaft streaks heaviest on the crown; feathers of the nape broadly white at their bases and along their sides sometimes tinged with rusty. Tail black, narrowly tipped with white terminally and crossed by three or more slate gray bars. Primaries and outer secondaries black,

barred, or at least regularly blotched, with white on the inner webs. Below variable; white with blackish brown mesial streaks (becoming wider posteriorly and laterally), and with tibiae strongly ochraceous in very old birds; more rusty, with broader markings and less ochraceous tibiae in those less fully adult; throat immaculate or very narrowly streaked.

Adult female: Similar to the adult male but much browner except on the rump and upper tail coverts; tail bands whitish, markings on the inner webs of the primaries and secondaries larger and more numerous and tinged with pale pinkish buff on the inner surface, light ochraceous salmon on the outer; below more heavily marked; tibiae without ochraceous.

Immature: Similar to the adult female, but browner above—fuscous—lighter on the head, feathers of the scapular and dorsal region edged with rusty; wing markings deeper, nearly ochraceous salmon, sometimes a few spots on the outer webs; under parts washed with cinnamon buff.

RANGE: Breeds from limit of trees in eastern Canada south to Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, northern Maine, Ontario, northern Michigan (Porcupine Mts.), and southern Manitoba (Winnipeg, Assiniboine Valley), west to the eastern border of the Great Plains. Winters from the Gulf States south through eastern (?) Mexico to Ecuador and north Venezuela; the West Indies; (Trinidad? Tobago? Guianas?)

FALCO COLUMBARIUS RICHARDSONII RIDGW.

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS: Adult male: similar to *F. c. columbarius* but much paler throughout; upper parts light neutral gray; dark areas on the nuchal feathers more reduced; tail gull gray or even paler, tipped with white terminally and with a broad subterminal band of black and crossed by three interrupted black bars. White bars on the inner webs of the primaries and secondaries wider than the black interspaces, outer webs with pale blotches, white on the inner surface, gull gray on the outer. Below white or buffy, central portions of the feathers snuff brown with darker shaft stripes; throat immaculate; tibiae but lightly streaked, sometimes with an ochraceous tinge.

Adult female: Similar to the male but upper parts with a distinct brownish cast; tail hair brown tipped with white and crossed by four narrow white bands, wing as in the female of *F. c. columbarius* but with the light areas more extensive and with spots of light ochraceous salmon on the outer webs of the quills.

Immature male: Similar to the adult female but with a strong rusty wash above and below; light markings on quills more ochraceous.

Immature female: Not seen.

RANGE: Breeds in the Great Plains region of southern Alberta, southern Saskatchewan, northern Montana, and northwestern North Dakota? In winter, south through Colorado, New Mexico and western Texas to northwestern Mexico?

FALCO COLUMBARIUS BENDIREI SWANN

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS—Adult male; similar to *F. c. columbarius* but paler above, neutral gray on the lower back, rump and upper tail coverts, darker on the interscapulars and crown; rusty edging of the nape deeper and more extensive; light interspaces on the wing quills about equal in width with the dark ones; light tail bands paler, about light neutral gray, and more extensive. Under parts much as in *F. c. columbarius*, but more or less suffused with buffy.

Adult female: Similar to *F. c. columbarius* but paler above and browner, less slaty, darker however than *richardsonii* and with shaft streaks less distinct. Below like *richardsonii* but streaks somewhat darker.

Immature male: Extremely close to the immature male of *F. c. columbarius* but slightly paler above; rusty feather edgings on the pileum broader; cinnamon buff on the nape, sides of head and underparts more strongly suffused, with streaking on the under surface averaging paler; pale interspaces on the quills as wide or wider than the dark ones; light markings on the tail wider and generally forming a series of complete bars.

Immature female: About intermediate between *columbarius* and *richardsonii* in all particulars, though sometimes very similar to the former, but always more strongly washed on the nuchal collar and below with buffy.

RANGE: Breeds from northwestern Alaska, Yukon and northwestern Mackenzie to British Columbia, northern and western Alberta, northern Saskatchewan, south in the mountains to northern California. In winter south through California and New Mexico south to the Cape region of Lower California, and northeastern Mexico (Matamoros, Tamaulipas) occasionally Louisiana (in collection A. C. Bent), to Florida and North Carolina.

All the winter birds from California that I have seen that were identified as *richardsonii*, prove to be referable to *bendirei* with one exception, that being an adult male taken by W. W. Price at Riverside, 22 January, 1889. (M. C. Z. 241866).

The examples from the Cape region of Lower California recorded as *richardsonii* by Brewster (1902 p. 90) are referable to *bendirei* as are the two specimens recorded by Phillips (1911 p. 73) from Matamoros, Tamaulipas, though one was identified as *richardsonii* and the other as *columbarius*. There are two adult males in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy from southern Florida (229136, Tortugas, 8 Apr. 1890, W. E. D. Scott; 246680, Key West, 27 Oct. 1896, J. W. Atkins) and one from North Carolina (218990, Raleigh, 21 Apr. 1888, H. H. & C. S. Brimley) that must be referred to *bendirei*.

REMARKS: Bendire's Pigeon Hawk is a well defined race occupying a larger area geographically than any other American race of *Falco columbarius*. It most nearly resembles the typical form, but is plainly intermediate between the very pale *richardsonii* and the very dark *suckleyi*.

The range of *bendirei* adjoins the ranges of the three other forms, and it is only natural to find a considerable variety of intermediates from along its periphery.

The type of *bendirei* was not well chosen being a migrant and evidently from the western portion of its range; it shows a trace of the *suckleyi* influence. Pure *bendirei* is found from northern Alberta northwards at least to Fort Anderson, Porcupine River and the upper Yukon.

The immature of *bendirei* bears a very close resemblance to the immature of *columbarius*, and Pigeon Hawks from Alaska, Canada west of the Rockies and Western U. S. have been almost invariably referred to *c. columbarius*.

Whenever adult males can be compared there is little difficulty in distinguishing the two forms, and in spite of a certain amount of intergradation through individual variation and a certain proportion of rather dark *bendirei* in the western part of its range, I doubt whether there are any western examples of *columbarius* that actually belong to that race genetically, and all such birds may be identified as *F. c. bendirei* > *suckleyi* or *F. c. bendirei* > < *suckleyi*. In any event a fifth form intermediate between *bendirei* and *suckleyi* would have no constant characters by which it could be distinguished. Since autumn specimens of all races of *Falco columbarius* predominate in collections, and of these a large majority are immature, I have tried particularly to bring out the characters by which young birds of the different races are found to differ. There are several parallel cases in North American ornithology where on the meeting-ground of two or more races an intermediate is found hardly distinguishable from some races to which it is genetically unrelated. Where the ranges of *Bonasa umbellus umbelloides* and *B. u. sabinii* adjoin in southeastern British Columbia, eastern Washington and Oregon and central Idaho there is a ruffed grouse indistinguishable from *B. u. togata*. In western Nevada some of the intermediates

between *Eremophila alpestris leucolaema* and *E. a. merrilli* are much like *E. a. praticola* while in the mountains of northern Idaho where *Penthestes atricapillus occidentalis* approaches the range of *P. a. septentrionalis* intermediates occur precisely like the familiar chickadee (*P. a. atricapillus*) of eastern North America.

FALCO COLUMBARIUS SUCKLEYI RIDGW.

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS. — Adult male: similar to *F. c. columbarius* but very much darker above; light tail bands reduced to small dark gray spots on either web; light markings on primaries and secondaries very much smaller; below streakings darker and heavier, the throat also streaked.

Adult female: differs from the corresponding sex of *F. c. columbarius* in the same particulars as does the male.

Immature male: similar in color to the adult female.

Immature female: no specimens seen.

RANGE: Not exactly known, probably British Columbia, west of the Cascades and including the coastal islands. Recent evidence (Swarth, 1926) would indicate that *suckleyi* may breed in southern Alaska. In winter it appears to be resident throughout a large part of its range, but occasionally occurs south at least to San Francisco Bay. I do not know on what grounds Swann (1922, p. 194) bases his statement "in winter S. cas. to Venezuela".

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barrows, Walter Bradford

1912. Michigan Bird Life. Special Bull. Mich. Agri. Coll. Lansing.

Bishop, L. B.

1900. Birds of the Yukon region with notes on other species. U. S. Dept. Agr. Biol. Surv., No. Am. Fauna No. 19, p. 47-96.

Brewster, William

1902. Birds of the Cape region of Lower California. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 41, No. 1.

Brooks, Allan, and Harry S. Swarth

1925. A distributional list of the birds of British Columbia. Pacific Coast Avifauna., No. 17. Berkeley.

Clark, Austin H.

1905. Birds of the southern Lesser Antilles. Proc. Boston. Soc. Nat. Hist. 32, No. 7, pp. 203-312.

Eaton, Elon Howard

1914. Birds of New York. Memoir No. 123 N. Y. State Mus. Vol. 2. Albany.

Grinnell, Joseph

1915. A distributional list of the birds of California. Pacific Coast Avifauna, No. 11. Hollywood.

Hatch, P. L.

1892. Notes on the birds of Minnesota. Geol. and Nat. Hist. Surv. Minn. Minnesota.

Howell, Arthur H.

1924. Birds of Alabama. Montgomery.

Knight, Ora Willis

1908. Birds of Maine. Bangor.

Macoun, John, and James M. Macoun

1909. Catalogue of Canadian birds. Canada Dept. of Mines, Geological Survey Branch. Ottawa.

Osgood, W. H.

1904. A biological reconnoissance of the base of the Alaska Peninsula. U. S. Dept. of Agr. Biol. Surv., No. Am. Fauna, No. 24.

Penard, Frederick Paul and Arthur Philip Penard

- 1908-1910. De Vogels van Guyana (Suriname, Cayenne en Demerara)

Phillips, John C.

1911. A year's collecting in the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico. Auk 28, pp. 67-89.

Ridgway, Robert

1870. A new classification of the North American Falconidae, with descriptions of three new species. Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Phila. for 1870. pp. 130-150. (*Falco richardsonii* described on page 145)
1873. On some new forms of American birds. Bull. Essex Inst. 5, No. 12, pp. 197-201. (*Falco suckleyi* described on p. 201)

Roberts, T. S.

1880. A partial list of the birds of St. Louis and Lake counties, Minn. 8th Ann. Rep. Geol. and Nat. Hist. Surv. of Minn. for 1879, pp. 155-165. St. Paul.
1907. List of birds of Becker County, Minnesota. Chap. VIII of "A Pioneer History of Becker County, Minnesota." pp. 159-190. St. Paul.

Seton, Ernest Thompson

1909. Fauna of Manitoba. Brit. Ass. Handb., sep. paged repr. 1-47. Winnipeg.

Swann, H. Kirke

- 1921-1922. A synopsis of the Accipitres. 2 ed. 4 pts. London.
1922. [Account of visit to the United States.] Bull. B. O. C. 42, pp. 65-68.

Swarth, H. S.

1922. Birds and Mammals of the Stikine River region of northern British Columbia and southeastern Alaska. Univ. Cal. Publ. Zool. 24, No. 3.
1924. Birds and Mammals of the Skeena River region of northeastern British Columbia. Univ. Cal. Publ. Zool. 24, No. 3.
1926. Report on a collection of Birds and Mammals from the Atlin region, northern British Columbia. Univ. Cal. Publ. Zool. 30, No. 4.

Taverner, P. A.

1919. Birds of the Red Deer River, Alberta. Auk. 36, pp. 1-21; 248-263.
1919. Birds of eastern Canada. Memoir No. 104 (No. 3 Biol. Ser.) Dept. of Mines, Geographical Survey of Canada. Ottawa.
1926. Birds of western Canada. Bull. No. 41, Victoria Mem. Mus. Ottawa.

Thompson, E. E.

1891. The birds of Manitoba. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 13, No. 841, pp. 457-643.

Wood, Norman A.

1923. A preliminary survey of the bird life of North Dakota. Misc. Publ. No. 10, Mus. Zool. Univ. of Mich.



THE ESSEX COUNTY SHOOTING SEASON OF 1926

JOHN C. PHILLIPS

Exceptions and peculiarities are the normal features of a shooting season. The season of 1926 will be remembered as a year of great duck shortage for the pond shooters in Essex County as well as all over eastern Massachusetts. This was especially true of September, October and early November and was partly made up by a very considerable flight of ducks and geese in late December and even in January after the season closed.

At Wenham Lake fairly good records were kept up to November 13 and I think never with one possible exception were so few ducks and geese seen either on the lake or flying over it. Black Ducks were scarce and so was every other species. There were no western-bred ducks except a few Greater Scaup, two or three Scoters, one Red-head and one Pintail. Stands on the salt marshes did not fare so badly but it was evident even in the protected ponds about Boston, and at Suntaug Lake in Lynnfield, that there were scarcely half the normal number of Black Ducks present. The same conditions were noted on the Kennebec River in Maine and other areas of duck concentration.

There is, of course, no reason for believing that this condition indicates a falling off in number of New England wild-fowl, but it does mean that we have much to learn about the yearly variations in flight and the reasons for the same. It would be interesting to know whether the great summer rainfall in the center of the country, even east as far as central New York, had any bearing on the dearth of ducks in New England.

The water table in Essex County was low all the summer of 1926, and I have seldom seen the river marshes and wet pastures get so absolutely bone dry. Snipe were so rare that I, personally, did not see a single bird and heard of not more than 2 or 3 being shot. No doubt there were a few spots where an odd bird or two managed to find a feeding ground, but the fact remains that we have seldom had such a poor snipe season.

Because of the dry conditions many felt that we would have few Woodcock. Some of the usual Woodcock coverts were absolutely dusty in mid-September and of course many of the local birds moved out before October. But there were a good many birds

in our coverts and in Rockingham County, N. H. right through the flight season. A considerable correspondence with Woodcock shooters in Maine and Nova Scotia brought out the fact that 1926 was at least a good average year, possibly better than the last 10 year average. It did not of course compare with the year 1925 when we had the remarkable flight.

The Ruffed Grouse crop was certainly better than 1925, there seemed to be a good many young birds but it could not be classed as a good year nor did we expect a good year. Grouse were very "spotty" in their distribution, absent from many favorite places and failed to show up well towards the end of November as they do in many seasons. One remarkable fact held good this year as it did last and that was a much poorer crop of birds all across southern and eastern New Hampshire, as far west at least as Francistown. North of this belt there was better shooting even as there was better shooting in Essex County. The great scarcity of grouse in extreme northern New Hampshire, northern Maine and most of Nova Scotia, as well as in New Brunswick and Quebec still continues. During the whole month of July the writer was unable to account for more than 5 birds in the region northeast of Moosehead Lake in Maine, which shows how much scarcer the species becomes periodically under natural conditions in the back-woods than it does with us in heavily shot over country. Dr. A. O. Gross was lucky in being able to collect a small series during August in the region west of Mt. Katahdin.

It is not worth while to report the hawk and owl flights in detail. Goshawks appeared in enormous numbers in early November and at this writing, February 20, 1927, they are still with us and killing a great many grouse, pheasants and rabbits. To show how bold Goshawks become at times I might relate how one of them struck at a decoy duck in mid-air as it was being thrown from my stand in Newmarket, N. H. This hawk had been sitting unnoticed in a tree almost over the duck stand watching his chance. The hawk was shot and positively identified. Snowy Owls came about the same time but probably killed little except rats, some poultry, decoy ducks, crippled ducks, etc. At this same shooting stand in Newmarket, N. H. on Great Bay, we shot three, two of them just after they had killed decoy ducks, and so many of our ducks were killed during the night

that we had to stop pegging them out. It is very doubtful whether many of these Snowy Owls can support life in our region judging from the small amount of food found in their stomachs. Great Horned Owls appeared to be more numerous than usual at Wenham in October, suggesting an influx from further north and three were taken at the lake after repeated damage to live decoys. On the other hand Barred Owls appeared scarce.

It is rather interesting to notice here that eels are now one of the most destructive enemies of decoy ducks at Wenham and work great havoc until the cooling water in early October sends them away from the shallows near shore.

Wenham Lake was lower in 1926 than for a great many years and there was the usual fine flock of Killdeer Plover present in October, the bare shores being especially favorable to them. There were Black-bellied Plover at the blind on October 2, a rare sight for Wenham Lake.



NOTES ON THE FAY ESTATE HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL

ARTHUR P. STUBBS

Every group of students of the great out-of-doors has some especially favored nook or corner of their range which they prize above all others as most productive. The locality holding this position in the minds of most of the members of the Essex County Ornithological Club is the old Fay estate, situated on the shores of Spring Pond at the meeting point of the cities of Lynn, Salem and Peabody.

This region is fast being built over, brushy corners are being cleared, trees felled and roads cut through; thus, step by step, our feathered friends are being driven out of the old paradise. Because of this rapid encroachment, by so-called improvement, upon the old estate, it is thought desirable to preserve upon the pages of our Bulletin a few fragments of its ancient and romantic history and a few memories of the many pleasant hours of bird-seeking we have spent at "Fay's."

The existence of the estate, as such, seems to date from 1690, when Doctor John Casper Richter van Crowninscheldt of Salem bought of Mrs. Elizabeth Allen a tract of land and the buildings thereon, "near a pond called Spring Pond." The Doctor proceeded to develop a gentleman's country place and is said to have entertained lavishly, having as guests most of the notables of the day. One of the attractions of the place was a mineral spring, at the Lynn end of Spring Pond, which was supposed to possess great medicinal virtue.

The estate remained in the hands of the Crowninshield* family until 1810, when it passed into the possession of a hotel company and the Mineral Spring Hotel was built. The property was conducted as a place of public entertainment until 1847, excepting a period of two or three years when one Beck undertook to conduct a school there but landed in jail. The estate was purchased in 1847 by Richard Sullivan Fay of Cambridge, a former partron of the Mineral Spring Hotel. Mr. Fay was related to the Crowninshield and Saltonstall families of Salem and had married into the Pickman family of that town.

* Modern spelling.

Soon after purchasing the hotel property, he went to England where he occupied a country estate in Shropshire. He returned to America in 1853, bringing with him a great variety of trees and shrubs to plant upon his Spring Pond estate. During the remainder of his life he paid especial attention to arboriculture and to beautifying his estate, making it a worthy predecessor to the Arnold Arboretum, so rare and varied was his collection of trees and shrubs. For years, even after the death of its creator, the estate was visited by students of silviculture.

Mr. Fay died while on a visit to England in 1865, but his widow continued to make the place her residence until her death in 1904. Evil days came upon the estate after the death of Mrs. Fay. It passed into control of care-takers, one of whom ran a stock farm and the place was over run by cattle; the next was a horse breeder and horses took the place of cows. A lumber company came with a portable mill and robbed the estate of its many great white pines; then picnickers did their best to ruin the leavings of the lumbermen. The property was then sold to a railroad company which after a time disposed of its holdings to a land company which cut the open, unwooded part into house lots and sold them. About this time there was a coal famine and wood thieves raided the woodland on and near Flag-staff Hill. This section has since grown up to brush and the birds driven away by the raid have in a measure returned.

The estate of today may be considered an irregular triangle, bounded on one side by the highway from Lynn to Salem (Western and Highland Avenues); on the second side by a line running from a point on Highland Avenue, Salem, opposite Clark Street, to the shore of Spring Pond near the dam; the third side is made by the shore of Spring Pond and the boundary of "Seldom Good Pasture."

The open part of the estate, formerly under cultivation, is mainly around the sides of a cup-shaped valley, at the bottom of which is "Farm Pond," which at flood stage is a pond, at other times a quaking bog.

A broad, flat-topped, gravelly ridge separates Farm from Spring Pond. On this ridge stood the old Mansion and its attendant farm buildings with a wide, grassy lawn broken by a

few, beautiful and well placed trees. From the lawn, through a portal of tall spruces, wound Fay Avenue connecting the Mansion with the outer world. This avenue, for the greater part of its extent, was, in the old days, overhung by large trees and was a road of great beauty.

Across Farm Pond, Flag-staff Hill shuts out the noise and bustle of the city and a steep, wooded ridge shuts the valley in from Seldom Good Pasture.

The vista from the site of the Mansion, across Spring Pond between its high, wooded banks is yet beautiful. A wide stretch of old partially overgrown pasture extends from Spring Pond to the Lynn and Salem highway. This pasture is, for the most part high, dry and ledgy, but there are several small swamps and wet runs filled with red maples, while the uplands are occupied by a half starved growth of pitch pine, gray birch and red cedar with open glades infested by barberry and wild cherry. Flag-staff Hill and the adjoining swamp beside Floating Bridge Pond are covered by brush on the hill and by large red maples in the swamp.

Every nook and corner of the old estate has its special feathered tenantry, and every change of elevation or cover means a corresponding change in the species to be found. Divers, ducks, herons, shore-birds and rails take readily to the varying surface of Farm Pond and the more open expanse of Spring Pond. The wet portions of the pasture furnish nesting sites for ducks, while the heavy growth beside Floating Bridge Pond harbors, according to season, herons, owls, woodpeckers, blackbirds, catbirds and thrushes. The brushy uplands of Flag-staff Hill and "Pine Warbler Ridge," beside Spring Pond, are literally infested by warblers and their ilk during migrations. At the same time the larches and spruces about the "Lawn" are crowded by a surprising number of warbler species. Several groups of European Larches, about the estate, make famous feeding places for goldfinches, siskins and others of their tribe and there we find our first spring flocks of migrating Myrtle Warblers.

Among the rarer birds that have favored the estate with visits are Arctic Three-toed Woodpeckers, Evening and Pine Grosbeaks and Olive-sided Flycatchers, while Yellow-breasted Chats and White-eyed Vireos have been known to breed there.

A number of *special records* of rare birds have been made on the estate on its immediate vicinity, such as—a Little Blue Heron in adult plumage, a Hawk Owl, a Cardinal Grosbeak and a wintering Catbird seen by Moulton; two Carolina Wrens and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reported by Moon and a nesting Golden-crowned Kinglet found by Dwyer and Chase. During the great flight of young Little Blue Herons in the summer of 1924, Emilio and Baker saw several on the shore of Spring Pond.

It is the writer's misfortune not to have known the Estate at its best, but our fellow members Chase, Dwyer, Moulton and Moon passed their boyhood in the immediate neighborhood and they have many pleasing memories of tramps through its woods and across its fields. That wonderful, nature-loving character, Will Hunt, our departed brother, knew every inch of the old place and loved it as his own.

As a slight measure of the ornithological possibilities of the region the writer appends the following lists made by Moulton and Moon.

**Census made in June, 1915 by Mr. Charles E. Moulton at the Fay Estate in Lynn, of about forty acres, one third woodland the rest brush and swamp.

	<i>Pairs</i>		<i>Pairs</i>
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Belted Kingfisher	1	Indigo Bunting	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	Scarlet Tanager	1
Flicker	4	Red-eyed Vireo	13
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4	Golden-winged Warbler	2
Crested Flycatcher	1	Yellow Warbler	2
Wood Pewee	2	Chestnut-sided Warbler	4
Least Flycatcher	3	Black-throated Green Warbler	1
Crow	1	Ovenbird	5
Red-winged Blackbird	1	Maryland Yellow-throat	4
Baltimore Oriole	4	Redstart	12
Bronzed Grackle	2	Catbird	10
Goldfinch	1	Brown Thrasher	1
Chipping Sparrow	2	Wood Thrush	3
Song Sparrow	5	Veery	2
Chewink	3	Robin	18

A total of 34 species, 134 pairs.

* * From "Supplement to Birds of Essex County" by C. W. Townsend, M. D., page 19.

List of Birds noted by Wilbur D. Moon

During the month of May, 1926 on the Fay Estate

Herring Gull	Baltimore Oriole
Black Duck	Rusty Blackbird
Bittern	Bronzed Grackle
Great Blue Heron	Purple Finch
Green Heron	Goldfinch
Black-crowned Night Heron	Pine Siskin
Wilson's Snipe	Vesper Sparrow
Greater Yellow-legs	Savannah Sparrow
Spotted Sandpiper	White-crowned Sparrow
Ruffed Grouse	White-throated Sparrow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Chipping Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Field Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Song Sparrow
Sparrow Hawk	Towhee
Osprey	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Screech Owl	Indigo Bunting
Black-billed Cuckoo	Scarlet Tanager
Belted Kingfisher	Barn Swallow
Hairy Woodpecker	Tree Swallow
Downy Woodpecker	Cedar Waxwing
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Red-eyed Vireo
Northern Flicker	Yellow-throated Vireo
Whip-poor-will	Blue-headed Vireo
Chimney Swift	White-eyed Vireo
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Black and White Warbler
Kingbird	Golden-winged Warbler
Crested Flycatcher	Nashville Warbler
Phoebe	Tennessee Warbler
Wood Pewee	Northern Parula Warbler
Least Flycatcher	Cape May Warbler
Blue Jay	Yellow Warbler
Crow	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Starling	Myrtle Warbler
Cowbird	Magnolia Warbler
Red-winged Blackbird	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Meadowlark	Black-poll Warbler

Blackburnian Warbler	Brown Thrasher
Black-throated Green Warbler	House Wren
Pine Warbler	White-breasted Nuthatch
Yellow Palm Warbler	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Prairie Warbler	Chickadee
Ovenbird	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Water-Thrush	Wood Thrush
Maryland Yellow-throat	Veery
Wilson's Warbler	Hermit Thrush
Canada Warbler	Robin
Redstart	Bluebird
Catbird	



BIRD-BANDING RESULTS FOR 1926

WILLIS H. ROPES

It is a matter of regret that no recruits were added during the past year to the list of bird-banders of the Club, for the value of bird-banding depends, as with the telephone, on the number of participants.

Several of the regular banders were unable to give full attention and time to banding at their feeding stations, so that the total results for different species are very irregular and, excepting Tree Sparrows, generally smaller.

My total banding of Juncos for the winter of 1925-26 was 101, compared with 89 for the preceding winter. Of these, 44 were banded in March and April, compared with 6 the preceding season in those months. It has been my experience every year that for some unaccountable reason Juncos will not enter my traps in February. Only two were caught during that month in 1923, none in 1924, 3 in 1925 and 2 in 1926. They are to be seen in small flocks as in other winter months, but will not "take the bait." It would seem as if after the two great storms of last February they should have gone into the traps for needed food.

On the other hand February is usually a good month for Tree Sparrows. I banded in that month of 1923, 13; 1924, 17; 1925, 4; (but only 6 for the whole winter,) and in 1926, 52. The heavy snows of this month in 1926 brought in many Tree Sparrows, and my total for the winter was 89 with 5 returns, contrasted with 6 and 2 returns for the previous season.

As usual Mr. Morley caught most of the Fox Sparrows, the other banders rarely seeing any near their traps.

Chipping Sparrows were not plenty through the spring and summer, and it was the first year since I began banding that I did not locate a nest with young near my house. I attribute it to the increasing scarcity of horse hair which the birds always use in lining their nests, as I found plenty of "Chippies" in June, near stables about a mile from my station, and after the nesting season juvenile Chipping Sparrows were abundant.

The Night Herons were in a class by themselves as they were banded at the heronry by two of the members only. The season was a bad one for these birds as the following report from Mr.

Morley shows. He wrote me: "It took me all day to find 100 birds good enough to band, and I was all over the colony which the members have always covered and where we used about 400 bands on our first expeditions. This year I found twice as many dead birds, the majority of them big enough to band and all badly mutilated, nest after nest with three or four big young birds. I have no explanation to offer, but it looked like the work of some animal (raccoon?) that had killed them just for the sport of it."

Mr. Emilio also visited the heronry and noted the same conditions. He reports that while the mutilated young birds were largely confined to the southern part, in all parts of the heronry there was a very unusual number of dead young on the ground, in the nests and hanging in crotches in the trees. The season was cold and late and many nests had only two instead of the usual three and four nestlings.

From the nestling Night Herons banded at the Ipswich heronry, Mr. Morley has had six interesting recoveries reported to the Biological Survey (as per instructions on the bands) and by the Survey to Mr. Morley. One bird was taken in Maine, another in New Hampshire, and one each in New Jersey, Virginia and Florida, the sixth being captured on the S. S. Ontario, at sea. Previous recoveries of Night Herons have shown that they scatter in all directions from the heronry when fully grown.

Mr. Morley also had returns to his Swampscott station of ten Tree Sparrows, helpful in proving the extent to which the small seed-eating winter birds return to the same spot. One of these birds was banded early in the winter of 1923, four in 1924, two in 1925 and three in 1926.

As usual there were more Song Sparrows banded at the feeding stations than any other species, the total for 1926 being 233 compared with 231 for 1925. Song Sparrows are very clever at hiding their nests and nestlings are rarely banded by our members.

I had a pair of "returned" Song Sparrows in my garden near the house all summer. They built four nests, but succeeded in rearing only one brood. The three young left the nest just before a thunder storm and I feared they had perished, but two of them were taken nearly three weeks later in fine condition. The other three nests were deserted, in one instance on account

of my tipping the nest in a low shrub while trimming it and unaware of the nest being there. The other two were visited by either a snake, squirrel or bird which took the young or eggs.

From records I have kept for 1925 and 1926 of nests found at or near my station in Putnamville, Danvers, I have estimated that about one third of the nests yield no nestlings for banding. In 1925 I found 41 nests, 16 of which were destroyed or no young reared for various causes. In 1926 I found 44 nests, 18 of which were unsuccessful. The former year I banded 92 nestlings and the latter 87. Neighbors' cats, red squirrels, snakes and cold or rain and wind storms caused most of the mortality.

For the first time I have captured a bird banded at another station in this town. On February 15, 1926 I took Tree Sparrow A. 51633, which had been banded a month before by Mr. Preston at his station about two miles to the westward. The ice thus broken, Mr. Preston took Song Sparrow 41089 on March 30, 1926. This is a bird I had banded originally on April 3, 1924 and never seen again. Prior to these two recoveries over two thousand birds had been banded in Danvers by the three banders resident there without a single interchange between stations. This is the more remarkable as the three stations are not over two miles apart (forming an almost equilateral triangle) and indicates that birds confine themselves to a relatively small area in feeding and with rare exceptions after migration, they return to the same spot, frequently year after year.

The severe weather of December, 1926 in addition to the influx of shrikes in numbers as well as larger predatory species, has resulted in a great scarcity of small birds in our section at the close of the year.

The table of species and total number of each banded by the members of the Club in Essex County follows:

	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Nestlings</i>	<i>Returns.</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	—	135	7
Downy Woodpecker	3	4	—
Northern Flicker	2	17	2
Phoebe	—	5	*1
Least Flycatcher	1	—	—
Blue Jay	3	—	—

	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Nestlings</i>	<i>Returns</i>
Starling	10	5	—
Purple Finch	4	3	2
White-crowned Sparrow	3	—	—
White-throated Sparrow	13	—	—
Tree Sparrow	175	—	16
Chipping Sparrow	50	—	4
Field Sparrow	1	—	—
Slate-colored Junco	141	—	4
Song Sparrow	233	3	10
Fox Sparrow	22	—	—
Towhee	3	—	—
Barn Swallow	6	22	3
Tree Swallow	2	4	—
Northern Shrike	2	—	—
Yellow Warbler	5	2	—
Catbird	12	20	4
Brown Thrasher	3	—	—
Brown Creeper	2	—	—
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	—	2
Black-capped Chickadee	41	—	4
Wood Thrush	—	3	—
Robin	11	29	2
Bluebird	11	29	2
	762	281	63

* Phoebe, 65,076, Second return to R. W. Means, Boxford.



A LOCAL CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

S. G. EMILIO

For many years Bird Lore has conducted a nation-wide Christmas Bird Census. Observers from all parts of the country have reported the species of birds and the numbers of each seen by them in one day about Christmas time. These reports have been published in the magazine and have brought to light many interesting facts regarding the fluctuations in the numbers of different kinds of birds and their distribution at that time of year.

The contribution of any one individual to this mass of data is but a drop in the bucket, nevertheless even a drop may contain millions of very lively bacteria. So when I decided to add my little bit to the census data the question came up of just what would be my plan of procedure. I might, if I elected, go one year to Ipswich Beach, perhaps the next stroll through the Middleton and Boxford woods, the third year hunt in the open farming country in Danvers, and the next year, for instance, search the Lynn, Nahant and Marblehead shores. One could spend a life time in Essex County and never repeat the route of a Christmas Census. By this method one would in time get a fairly good idea of the winter bird life of the county. The list each year would supplement what had gone before, but these lists would not be at all comparable.

In spite of the relative insignificance of my proposed contributions to the mass of data published by Bird Lore, I decided I could make a series of counts that in themselves would be of some value before I passed to the next world. The solution seemed to lie in comparable data. To obtain comparable data one can introduce but one variable and the variable in this case would necessarily be time, as the counts would be spaced a year apart. That meant that the same observer must cover the same territory at the same season each year. A very minor variable would appear in the weather, but extremes of this factor could be avoided by postponing the trip for a day or two if necessary.

Then came the selection of a route. I knew that a shore trip with some attention to small land birds would result in the largest lists, but the vagaries of the New England climate might

well interfere with a thirty or forty mile jaunt of this nature, whereas deep snow could not prevent a ten mile hike from my home in Danvers as a base. So I chose the latter plan and have travelled afoot, roughly circling the Asylum hill. This route has led me over Whipple hill to Mr. C. F. Whitney's feeding station, then down into Beaver Brook swamp and adjacent territory, along Nichols Street and the hardwood growth nearby to Hathorne Station, then westward through open country to Howe, from there southward through some evergreen woods and then south-eastward through more open country, home again. This does not give a fair sample of Essex County which has on the average a larger proportion of wooded area, but it is a convenient trip to make and decidedly productive of birds.

The limiting dates for the Census are usually December 22 and 28. Theoretically one can select a reasonably good day in that time, but practically there has been no selection thus far and the count has been made on the Sunday nearest Christmas each year. The weather has been somewhat varied. The first year it was quite mild, about 40° and with a gentle southwest wind. This was of course ideal. The next year averaged even warmer but there was a steady drizzle with a northeast wind. In 1924 winter weather prevailed with a temperature range of 5° to 16° . The sky was clear and wind moderate from the west. As in the two preceding years there was little or no snow on the ground. The next year was decidedly bad. To be sure it was a cloudless day, but a northwest gale was blowing and the thermometer showed a range from zero to 9° above. Nevertheless we found a goodly variety of birds. In 1926 we had another offering of New England weather, an eight inch fall of snow through the day drifting to two and three feet with the temperature falling from 30° to about 20° and a brisk northerly wind. Again it was surprising that so many birds were found under the adverse conditions which prevailed nearly all day.

In the five years a considerable variety of weather has been experienced but extreme conditions such as a real blizzard or driving rain have not been met, and in the future will be avoided if possible. There has been but little apparent influence by the weather on the result of the searches.

Three years I made the trip alone, but in 1925 and 1926 Charles P. Preston accompanied me. His youthful and keen eye and ear are a constant challenge to my dulling senses. It is no doubt true his presence introduces another variable, but if, as I hope, he or another equally alert observer goes with me in the future, the first three years only will be affected and probably not very much at that, for conversation and noise in walking tend to balance the advantage of another pair of eyes and ears provided the observers hunt together as they have done and will do.

The appended tabulation tells its own story if one will study it. It is noteworthy however that only ten species have been found every year—Downy Woodpecker, Flicker, Blue Jay, Crow, Starling, English Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Black-capped Chickadee and Golden-crowned Kinglet. The large numbers of Crows and Starlings—which are of course only estimates—are due to the flocks of each seen at the piggery near Howe Station. Apart from them the most consistently common bird seems to be the Chickadee. The sparrow counts seem to indicate short cycles of abundance and it will be interesting to see what figures on that matter the future will give.

There are a few birds listed that one hardly expects to find at Christmas time. The Cowbird is not normally a winter bird and the four observed had so far lost their self respect as to associate with the Starlings at the piggery. The Bronzed Grackle in the winter of 1924-25 was represented hereabouts by many individuals. I know of no similar occurrence in the past and it has not been repeated in the two subsequent years. One Grackle only was seen on the day of the count. The Long-billed Marsh Wren has wintered not infrequently in the Cambridge region, but this bird of the 1924 Census is the first instance I know of in Essex County in winter. The bird was found in Beaver Brook Swamp and I saw it again about three weeks later. It is not usual for Herring Gulls to appear in the area of the census and the two seen in 1925 were of only casual occurrence. Salt water is but a few miles away however and the appearance of the bird here is not particularly noteworthy. The winter of 1926-27 witnessed a considerable invasion of Northern Shrikes—as well as Snowy Owls and Goshawks,—and the shrike appears for the first time in the census.

The rest of the species listed one can expect to find any winter and succeeding counts will show about how each ranks numerically in the area searched. It is to be expected that the total list will increase with time and that the number of species recorded every year will decrease. Thus far the average number of species found each year lies between 19 and 20. Which way that average will trend is wholly problematical.

Tabulation of a Danvers, Mass. Christmas Bird Census
for Five Years

A.O.U.	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
	12/24	12/23	12/28	12/27	12/26
51. Herring Gull	—	—	—	2	—
300. Ruffed Grouse	—	—	—	4	—
Pheasant	2	1	2	—	1
360. Sparrow Hawk	—	—	—	1	—
373. Screech Owl	1	—	—	—	—
393. Hairy Woodpecker	—	—	1	2	1
394c Downy Woodpecker	1	2	2	5	3
412a Northern Flicker	2	1	5	5	6
474. Horned Lark	—	30	—	30	25
477. Blue Jay	10	8	2	4	17
488. Crow	7	45	100	150	200
493. Starling	6	50	300	200	200
495. Cowbird	—	—	4	—	—
501. Meadowlark	1	—	—	—	—
511b Bronzed Grackle	—	—	1	—	—
517. Purple Finch	2	—	—	—	—
English Sparrow	?	75	75	60	30
529. Goldfinch	—	1	—	28	2
534. Snow Bunting	38	—	—	—	1
558. White-thoated Sparrow	—	—	2	—	—
559. Tree Sparrow	45	5	100	60	6
567. Slate-colored Junco	1	10	25	25	6
581. Song Sparrow	1	1	14	2	—
584. Swamp Sparrow	—	2	1	1	—
619. Cedar Waxwing	—	—	flk.	—	—
621. Northern Shrike	—	—	—	—	1

655.	Myrtle Warbler	—	—	6	4	—
725.	Long-billed Marsh Wren	—	—	1	—	—
726.	Brown Creeper	2	—	1	2	2
727.	White-breasted Nuthatch	—	1	—	—	1
728.	Red-breasted Nuthatch	—	4	—	1	—
735.	Black-capped Chickadee	10	24	30	30	40
748.	Golden-crowned Kinglet	16	6	2	2	17
761.	Robin	3	—	2	5	50
		18 sp.	17 sp.	22 sp	22 sp	19 sp.

THE DOCTOR BANDS A VIRGINIA RAIL

EDWARD G. ROWLAND, M. D.

During May one of the boys under my care was continually bringing in reports of a strange bird he had been seeing in a little cat-tail swamp near the office of the school, a state institution for the education of mental defectives. His descriptions were varied and inaccurate as was to be expected, yet I was convinced that the boy was describing some kind of a bird that he himself at least had never seen before. He had assisted me in banding hundreds of birds of more than forty species, and the situation was interesting as he insisted that the unknown was as long as a Robin, reddish-brown in color, had a long bill, was quite tame and did not fly when chased, but ran.

One evening he and another boy were helping me bait my traps for the morning catch of Song Sparrows and Catbirds when the youngster suddenly said, "O—h! There's the bird I have been telling you about." Following the direction of his pointed finger I found myself looking at a patch of reddish-brown color outlined against black mud. The patch presently resolved itself into the outline of a bird with a rich chestnut breast and a long curved orange-colored bill. It cocked its head from side to side, looked the three of us over quizzically, then leisurely paddled off into the recesses of the swamp.

It was a full twenty-five years since I had seen the nest of a Virginia Rail and I suddenly longed to renew my youth by seeing

another nest full of rail's eggs, so next evening we undertook the search. It must have looked like a crazy performance to the onlookers—a gray-haired doctor and two small boys wading in deep mud every step causing an eruption of sickening marsh gas from the sticky mire. We examined every cat-tail stalk in that acre of semi-aquatic unloveliness with its chaos of fallen trees, alder bushes, "honey-pots" and tussocks of marsh grass. We found plenty of nests but no sign of the home of the rail. At last we paused a moment for breath and as I fought the mosquitoes silently, all three of us rather disgusted, one of the boys shouted, "There's the bird!" And immediately from boy Number 2, "There's another one!" Sure enough, two Virginia Rails stood there delicately picking bits of food from the surface of the mud, each of them quite self-satisfied and unconcerned. We walked toward them and they gradually filtered away into the still narrower part of the swamp. I mumbled a rhetorical desire to band them, but the words had no special significance, for my intimate friends accuse me of talking to myself in a similar manner whenever I see a flock of chicks in a dooryard.

The absurdity of attempting to capture and band a rail became evident at once to my superior intellect, and I explained in detail to these two boys the physical and biological futility of any further effort. My scientific exposition was a gem of ornithological reasoning, a complete overwhelming, crushing demonstration by an A. B. M. D., to two boys of defective mentality. But as I paused to observe the effect of my words a voice from behind a nearby bush said, "We are going to drive them into a trap." Think of it! What more conclusive evidence of their mental deficiency could be asked for? I would write the incident into their case histories in the morning. It would also furnish an illuminating illustration for an article I was writing for the American Journal of Pschiatry on "Practical Situations vs. Binet-Simon Tests."

Too disgusted to object, I let the boys boss the job and stood where I was told, ready to shoo the bird along *if* it came my way. A trigger trap occupied a strategic position in the foreground and one of the Virginias gradually got into a muddy alleyway between two rows of cat-tails that led inevitably to the yawning mouth of the trap. She looked worried, bewildered and

in the desperate situation did just what poor mortals do—took the path of least resistance. She spied the opening, dashed into it, banged up against the inner wall of the trap, but by good luck did not touch the trigger and shot out again into the cat-tails. Certainly! Had I not proved before we started that it could not be done.

Now you know that “easy discouragement and lack of persistence in accomplishing a difficult task are cardinal attributes of defective mentality.” All the books say so. Accordingly, or rather unaccordingly, those two boys dashed into the swamp again shouting back as they stumbled and splashed, “We’re going to drive her back.” Sure enough, back came the bird to the area of quiet around the trap, which was now reset at a different angle. Virginia was getting wary and did not shoo as readily as before, but she finally struck the prepared alleyway, there was a click of steel on steel and a simultaneous shout from two youthful throats, “Got her!” Doubting, I splashed heavily through the mud and beheld the rail, captive but unhurt running wildly about her narrow prison.

Trap and captive were taken to my office and the bird dutifully and submissively admired by the entire staff of school officers, most of whom probably knew the difference between a humming bird and an ostrich. And finally on Virginia’s leg was fastened an aluminum band.

The title of this article mentions the Doctor, the rail, and the band, but, little of fundamental nature can be achieved in the line of outdoor investigation into nature’s secrets without that one unique piece of equipment, the exasperating, inaccurate, enthusiastic, and absolutely indispensable small boy.

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED DURING 1926
BY THE ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

ARTHUR P. STUBBS, RECORDER

Real winter came with the big snow storms of early February and lasted well into March, delaying the arrival of the Black-birds, Phoebe and Woodcock for a few days. April was normal but mid-May was rather cool and wet and late migrant warblers dribbled over into June. Summer was normal with few excessively hot days. Autumn was dry and rather cool. December was as a whole cold and snowy.

Late autumn brought an unusually large flight of Goshawks, Snowy Owls and Northern Shrikes, supposedly driven this way by want of food to the northward. A scarcity of small birds at this time may be laid to this influx but no doubt the harsh weather of December is somewhat responsible.

We have included in this list several records received from Mr. Charles E. Clarke of Medford, who has been so frequently in the field with us during the past year that we feel his work to be an extension of our own. These records will be found credited to him in the text.

Each member's records are merged into a whole as club work, but, if any individual record is desired it can be had on application to the Recorder.

A. O. U.

2. Holboell's Grebe. April 29 ; October 10. Not numerous.
3. Horned Grebe. April 29 ; October 12. Usual numbers.
6. Pied-billed Grebe. April 19 ; September 1 to November 21.
More observed than in 1925.
7. Loon. May 30 ; September 5. No summer birds reported.
11. Red-throated Loon. May 11 ; October 10. Average numbers.
27. Black Guillemot. February 22 ; November 7. Uncommon
early in the year but unusually numerous in the late fall.
31. Brünnich's Murre. January 1 ; December 12. (November
21 C. E. Clarke.) Most numerous at the latter end of
the year.
34. Dovekie. March 21 ; November 24. By no means com-
mon this year.

40. Kittiwake. April 15; June 14. The latter date being a record for the County we refer for further data to page 61.
43. Iceland Gull. November 14 and 24. Decidedly uncommon.
47. Great Black-backed Gull. May 30; August 29. No summering birds reported.
51. American Herring Gull. Present in large numbers the whole year.
54. Ring-billed Gull. June 16 to September 15. For a further account see page 60.
58. Laughing Gull. April 29 to August 25. Hardly so common as it has been for the last year or two.
60. Bonaparte's Gull. June 16 to November 28. Why this species is with us in June and July, hundreds if not thousands of miles from its nearest known breeding station, is a puzzle.
70. Common Tern. May 16 to October 10. Very common.
71. Arctic Tern. August 15. Ipswich.
77. Black Tern. August 29. One record at Ipswich.
106. Leach's Petrel. September 27. Live bird picked up in Wyoma Square, Lynn. This is the second such record. (See Bulletin, 1922, p 40.)
117. Gannet. April 25 to May 22; October 10 to November 26. Usual numbers.
119. Cormorant. April 19; November 14. Usual numbers.
120. Double-crested Cormorant. May 30 to June 13; September 5 to November 19.
129. American Merganser. November 21 to December 1. Decidedly uncommon.
130. Red-breasted Merganser. June 4; September 15. Very common.
131. Hooded Merganser. November 7 to 22. Rare.
132. Mallard. November 21. Very evidently a wild bird.
133. Red-legged Black Duck. April 19; October 27. Present in good numbers.
- 133a. Black Duck. April 11 to October 27. Evidently bred in the County in some numbers.
139. Green-winged Teal. May 15; October 27 to November 22. Uncommon.

-
143. Pintail. March 14-18. Hall's Brook, Lynn.
144. Wood Duck. May 15 to October 3. Usual numbers.
148. Scaup Duck. April 15; November 6. Few seen in the fall.
151. American Golden-eye. April 29; October 27. Usual numbers.
152. Barrow's Golden-eye. April 15; November 24. At the same place and in the same numbers as last year.
153. Buffle-head. April 29; November 7. Present in increasing numbers.
154. Old-squaw. May 19; October 12. Usual numbers.
163. American Scoter. February 22; October 10. Uncommon.
165. White-winged Scoter. May 30; September 6. Average numbers.
166. Surf Scoter. May 19; September 6. Not so common as preceding species.
167. Ruddy Duck. October 27 to December 1. More reported than during 1925.
- Snow Goose. Sp? November 21. Single record.
172. Canada Goose. April 15 to 24; November 15 to December 1. Average numbers.
- 173a. Brant. April 15 and 16; October 10; (November 14, C. E. Clarke.)
190. Bittern. April 23 to October 12. Usual numbers.
194. Great Blue Heron. April 9 to May 30; August 4 to November 10. An immature was found on the snow, dead, December 6 at Ipswich.
200. Little Blue Heron. April 25. Single bird in adult plumage.
201. Green Heron. April 25 to September 5. Average numbers.
202. Black-crowned Night Heron. April 19 to October 31. Usual number of adults in the spring but a high mortality among the young of some heronries.
212. Virginia Rail. April 25 to June 6. Very few reported.
214. Sora. May 18 and 23. Very few reported.
221. Coot. October 27 to December 1. Somewhat common during the fall.
224. Wilson's Phalarope. August 15. A single bird seen at Clark's Pond, Ipswich by five observers, three of whom were members of the Club.

228. Woodcock. March 27 to November 15. Average numbers.
230. Wilson's Snipe. Wintered to May 17. Fair spring flight but no fall reports.
231. Dowitcher. May 16 to 23; July 28 to August 29. More satisfactory records of this species this year than we have ever had before.
234. Knot. August 19 to October 12. (November 14 C. E. Clarke) Not so plentiful as in 1925.
235. Purple Sandpiper. April 19; November 7. Present in usual numbers about the outlying rocks and ledges of Salem Harbor and Marblehead.
239. Pectoral Sandpiper. August 11 to September 12. Not numerous.
240. White-rumped Sandpiper. August 11 to September 12. Scanty numbers reported.
242. Least Sandpiper. May 9 to 30; August 11 to September 22. Usual numbers.
- 243a. Red-backed Sandpiper. September 5 to October 12. Few reported.
246. Semipalmated Sandpiper. May 16 to June 16; July 14 to October 10. Present in good numbers.
248. Sanderling. May 16 to June 3; July 28 to October 12. Present in good numbers.
254. Greater Yellow-legs. April 23 to May 30; August 11 to October 31. Spring flight normal; fall flight thin and scattering.
255. Yellow-legs. August 11 to 29. Thin flight.
256. Solitary Sandpiper. May 9 to 15; September 4 to October 3. Hardly a normal flight.
261. Upland Plover. August 11 to 29. Very few reported.
262. Buff-breasted Sandpiper. September 5. A single bird seen at Clark's Pond, Ipswich. (See page 65)
263. Spotted Sandpiper. May 9 to October 24. Usual numbers.
265. Hudsonian Curlew. September 5 and 8. Seen at Great Neck, Ipswich.
270. Black-bellied Plover. May 11 to June 13; August 11 to October 31. Large fall flight.
272. Golden Plover. September 5 to 12. Much more rare than in 1925.

-
273. Killdeer. March 24 to October 24. Locally common.
274. Semipalmated Plover. May 16 to June 25; July 28 to October 12. Present in good numbers.
277. Piping Plover. March 22 to August 29. Evidently bred successfully.
- 283a. Ruddy Turnstone. May 11 to 15; August 25 to September 12. No large numbers reported.
289. Bob White. A few reported so it can be still considered a resident species.
300. Ruffed Grouse. Resident species. A mother bird and her brood seen near the Club Camp, in June.
- Ring-neck Pheasant. Introduced resident species. Gunners report a good season.
316. Mourning Dove. April 4 to November 7. Apparently bred successfully.
331. Marsh Hawk. April 25 to October 10. Usual numbers.
332. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Resident species. Not abundant.
334. Goshawk. January; October 20. Unusually large flight during the fall.
337. Red-tailed Hawk. January 28. Seen at close range in a closely built residential section of Lynn.
339. Red-shouldered Hawk. Resident species. Usual numbers.
343. Broad-winged Hawk. May 18 to June 13. Few reported.
352. Bald Eagle. May 11 to 21. Seen at Ipswich.
- 356a. Duck Hawk. October 12. Seen at "The Bluffs," Plum Island.
357. Pigeon Hawk. April 17; September 22. Uncommon.
360. Sparrow Hawk. Resident species. Common.
364. Osprey. April 9 to May 21; September 22 to October 12. Somewhat common.
366. Long-eared Owl. Resident species. Collected for the Peabody Museum, November 3, in West Peabody.
368. Barred Owl. Resident species. Collected for the Peabody Museum in Salem, (Forest River,) November 8.
373. Screech Owl. Resident species. Several reported.
375. Great Horned Owl. Resident species. Heard at various dates and seen on December 1 near the Club Camp. One was taken in a trap in the same neighborhood earlier in the year.

376. Snowy Owl. February 22; November 15 to December 22. Great numbers of these birds came from the north and were seen by several of the members between the above dates.
387. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. May 23 to July 2. Very few reported.
388. Black-billed Cuckoo. May 15 to August 11. Not numerous.
390. Belted Kingfisher. April 9 to November 14. Usual numbers.
393. Hairy Woodpecker. Resident species. Usual numbers.
- 394c. Downy Woodpecker. Resident species. Usual numbers.
400. Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker. May 16. Only record for the year.
402. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. April 13 to 17; September 23 to October 12. Much more common during migration, both spring and fall, than for some years.
- 412a. Northern Flicker. Resident species. Usual numbers.
417. Whip-poor-will. May 4 to late August. Locally common.
420. Nighthawk. May 23 to September 8. Somewhat common locally.
423. Chimney Swift. May 7 to September 5. Usual numbers.
428. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. May 12 to September 19. Uncommon.
444. Kingbird. May 5 to September 5. Common.
452. Crested Flycatcher. May 3 to September 8. Uncommon.
456. Phoebe. March 30 to October 23. Common.
461. Wood Pewee. May 23 to September 15. Somewhat common.
- 466a. Alder Flycatcher. June 6, 9 and 20. Reedy Meadows, Lynnfield.
467. Least Flycatcher. May 2 to August 18. Common.
474. Horned Lark. March 14; October 12. Somewhat common.
- 474b. Prairie Horned Lark. August 11 to October 12. About Clark's Pond, Ipswich.
477. Blue Jay. Resident species. Very common in town and out.
488. Crow. Resident species. Common.

-
493. Starling. Introduced resident species. Often seen in enormous flocks.
494. Bobolink. May 7 to September 11. Locally common.
495. Cowbird. March 25 to November 7. Locally common.
498. Red-winged Blackbird. March 18 to August 11; November 6, two females in Danvers. Locally common.
501. Meadowlark. Resident species. Said to be disappearing locally.
506. Orchard Oriole. May 18. A single male seen at Howe Station, Middleton.
507. Baltimore Oriole. May 7 to September 1. Usual numbers.
509. Rusty Blackbird. March 31 to May 9; September 25 to November 15. Common.
- 511b. Bronzed Grackle. February 22, March 22 to November 10. Common.
514. Evening Grosbeak. February 8. Seen by two observers on this date at points several miles apart.
515. Pine Grosbeak. February 3; November 4. Rare.
517. Purple Finch. Resident species. Locally common.
528. Redpoll. February 28 to April 14; November 28. Very few reported.
529. Goldfinch. Resident species. Usual numbers.
533. Pine Siskin. May 19. No fall dates.
534. Snow Bunting. February 28; October 31. Comparatively few seen.
536. Lapland Longspur. October 12 to November 28. Only a few seen.
540. Vesper Sparrow. April 11 to November 7. Usual numbers.
541. Ipswich Sparrow. January 1; October 31. Very few seen.
- 542a. Savannah Sparrow. April 11 to November 6. Common locally.
549. Sharp-tailed Sparrow. June 16 to October 12. Locally common.
554. White-crowned Sparrow. May 15 to 18; October 16 to 27. Only a few reported.
558. White-throated Sparrow. Wintered, June 24, September 26 to December 4. If this species had not disappeared from a Swampscott banding station in early December

we could have claimed complete residence in the county for 1926 as the June 24 bird was evidently breeding. Common during spring and fall migrations.

- 559. Tree Sparrow. May 2; October 28. Usual numbers.
- 560. Chipping Sparrow. April 14 to October 30. Unusual numbers.
- 563. Field Sparrow. April 12 to October 27. Usual numbers.
- 567. Slate-colored Junco. April 25; October 1. Usual numbers.
- 581. Song Sparrow. Resident species. Abundant in summer; uncommon in winter. Fewer migratory birds this year.
- 584. Swamp Sparrow. April 11 to November 6. Locally common.
- 585. Fox Sparrow. March 25 to May 1; November 6 to 21. Average numbers.
- 587. Towhee. May 2 to October 13. Usual numbers.
- 595. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. May 14 to September 19. Somewhat common.
- 598 Indigo Bunting May 17 to July 9. Possibly a few more were reported this year than last but the species has not regained its old status.
- 608. Scarlet Tanager. May 14 to October 6. Somewhat common and well distributed through the County.
- 612. Cliff Swallow. April 25 to August 15. The colony near the East Street Bridge in Middleton is the only 1926 station known to the Recorder. Birds were at their nests at that place on August 15.
- 613. Barn Swallow. April 25 to September 17. Present in good numbers.
- 614. Tree Swallow. April 11 to September 8. Usual numbers.
- 616. Bank Swallow. May 16 to 30. Few reported.
- 619. Cedar Waxwing. Variable resident. Average numbers.
- 621. Northern Shrike. February 16; October 31. Unusually large number of the species present during the fall and winter.
- 622e. Migrant Shrike. September 1 and 5. West Peabody and Boxford.
- 624. Red-eyed Vereo. May 16 to October 10. Average numbers.
- 627. Warbling Vireo. May 23 to September 12. Common only in favored localities.

-
628. Yellow-throated Vireo. May 16 to June 24. Very few reported, seems to becoming locally extirpated.
629. Blue-headed Vireo. May 2 to October 10. The fact seems to be established that this species breeds rather commonly in the County in favorable locations.
631. White-eyed Vireo. May 21. Only one bird reported, has become very rare in Essex County.
636. Black and White Warbler. May 2 to October 4. Usual numbers.
642. Golden-winged Warbler. May to 4 August 18. Common locally.
645. Nashville Warbler. May 5 to October 10. Somewhat common summer resident locally.
647. Tennessee Warbler. May 5 to June 5. By no means as common as it was in migration a few years ago.
- 648a. Northern Parula Warbler. May 2 to June 13; September 8 to October 10. Fall migration scanty.
650. Cape May Warbler. May 7, 17 and 19. Fay Estate, Lynn.
652. Yellow Warbler. May 2 to September 19. Usual numbers.
654. Black-throated Blue Warbler. May 12 to 18; October 16. Decidedly uncommon spring and fall.
655. Myrtle Warbler. Wintered, May 30, June 24, September 4, November 14. The above series of dates seem to show the species to have been resident in the County in 1926. The June 24 record was of a male and female seen together in a mixed growth of woods near the Topsfield-Ipswich line and beside the Ipswich River, in what seemed to the two observers to be a favorable nesting site.
657. Magnolia Warbler. May 14 to 30; August 30 to September 8. Average numbers.
659. Chestnut-sided Warbler. May 3 to September 12. Common locally.
660. Bay-breasted Warbler. May 16 and May 30. Very rare.
661. Black-poll Warbler. May 18 to June 6; September 8 to October 12. Also one bird on October 28 and another November 7. The latter was seen at Nahant and independently identified by two observers. Usual numbers.

662. Blackburnian Warbler. May 5 to June 24. Breeds in the County to a limited extent.
667. Black-throated Green Warbler. April 25 to October 24. Usual numbers.
671. Pine Warbler. April 13 to October 6. Average numbers.
672. Palm Warbler. September 15. A single record.
- 672a. Yellow Palm Warbler. April 11 to May 15; October 1. Rare during the fall migration.
673. Prairie Warbler. May 4 to September 15. Not numerous.
674. Ovenbird. May 3 to September 8. Usual numbers.
675. Water-Thrush. May 17 to June 2. Not numerous.
678. Connecticut Warbler. September 27 and October 5. Very rare.
681. Maryland Yellow-throat. May 7 to October 10. Usual numbers.
685. Wilson's Warbler. May 14 to June 2. Uncommon.
686. Canada Warbler. May 5 to June 2, June 24, August 11. Probably bred in small numbers in the County.
687. Redstart. May 3 to September 26. Present in usual numbers.
697. Pipit. May 9 to 23; September 14 to October 28. Present in some numbers.
704. Catbird. May 3 to October 4. Usual numbers.
705. Brown Thrasher. May 2 to September 9. Apparently started south unusually early.
721. House Wren. May 5 to June 16. Rare.
722. Winter Wren. April 21; October 12 and 17. Uncommon.
724. Short-billed Marsh Wren. May 16 to June 24. Locally common.
725. Long-billed Marsh Wren. May 23 to October 3. Locally common.
726. Brown Creeper. April 25; September 15. Fairly common.
727. White-breasted Nuthatch. Wintered, May 24; June 22, 23, 26, 27; July 24, 31; August 1, 9, 10, 11, 20, 21; September 3, — —. Above dates indicate permanent residence.
728. Red-breasted Nuthatch. May 24; September 26; Fairly common.

-
735. Chickadee. Resident species. Very common.
748. Golden-crowned Kinglet. February 21; October 4. Variable.
749. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. April 24 to May 7; October 1 to 17. Fairly common.
755. Wood Thrush. May 4 to September 10. Somewhat common locally.
756. Veery. May 15 to September 10. Mr. R. A. Nichols reported seeing one bird of this species in Boxford, April 23. Common locally.
758a. Olive-backed Thrush. May 14 to 30; September 26. Rare.
759b. Hermit Thrush. April 13 to November 6. Bred in favorable localities all over the County.
761. Robin. Variable resident species. Usual numbers.
766. Bluebird. March 24 to October 30. Present in good numbers.
-

PROTECTIVE TUBES FOR BIRDSKINS

ALBERT P. MORSE

Curator of Natural History, Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass.

Many years ago, in 1905 to be exact, I conceived the idea of using a tube of transparent celluloid, closed at the ends with corks, as a means of protecting birdskins from breakage of necks and tails due to unskilled or inadvertently rough handling. This system has now been used at Wellesley College and other institutions for a long time with much satisfaction and as it greatly, in fact almost indefinitely, prolongs the life of the birdskin, it seems worth while to make it more widely known.

The tubes are cylindrical in shape and made of transparent celluloid from 5 to 20 thousandths of an inch in thickness, according to the size of the tube required, with a cemented lock seam on one side. Flat corks, the same diameter as the tube and about a half an inch thick, are inserted, one in each end, and held in place with short ribbon pins. I have made tubes in this way even for large hawks, owls and ducks, using sheet cork, sheet compressed cork or cork soling for closing the ends.

If the tube is made to fit the specimen, (as I have usually made it,) the skin is rarely damaged by "sitting on its tail." If the tube should be a little large one can attach to the legs of the bird a card label of the right length to press against the rear or lower cork, and thus hold the skin in place. I have found also that a brass wire twisted around the crossed tarsi and clinched in the rear cork is an even better plan, because there is less interference with the view of the specimen.

It is possible to place celluloid in the ends, instead of cork, and cement it in. This is a troublesome job, (I speak from experience,) and consequently expensive, but when it is done, with the skins thoroughly fumigated before being enclosed, neither pests, dust nor dampness will cause further trouble.

The tubes give a clear view of all parts of the skins, take up but little extra room, are very light and portable and so tough as to be practically indestructible; yet if necessary the specimens may be quickly removed, except from the hermetically sealed tubes, for critical examination. I know of no other means whereby it is possible to secure such good opportunity for close observation with entire freedom from injury to the specimen.

Precautions must of course be taken against letting celluloid come in contact with fire, either spark or flame—just as with paraffined or tissue paper or *any other* combustible material. Cellulose acetate, which when coated with gelatine and sensitized becomes the so-called non-inflammable film, burns freely though less rapidly than celluloid. Gelatin, unfortunately, soon becomes brittle and is also instantly damaged by moisture. A substance having the good qualities of celluloid without its combustibility is greatly to be desired.

These tubes have been used by me personally since 1905. About 170 are in use at Wellesley College; others by the Boston Normal School, Brush Hill Bird Club, etc. The Peabody Museum of Salem has placed a series of the smaller common birds in them to be loaned to the school teachers of Essex County, Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Audubon Society is to have a similar series.

Light, portable and waterproof, the tubes are equally valuable for out-of-door and laboratory work. It has long been my custom when conducting an autumn trip of bird-lovers to the

Ipswich sand dunes, to take along in these tubes examples of the Ipswich Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur and other species for the students to get acquainted with before trying to recognize the birds in the field.





GULL AND SHORE-BIRD RECORDS
AT THE "SOW AND PIGS" DURING THE
SUMMER AND FALL OF 1926

A. P. STUBBS

The success of field work on the "made land" at the mouth of the Saugus River, "Sow and Pigs", during the summer and fall of two or three years past* led me to visit the locality frequently during the present season.

The remnant of the wooden bulk-head, a long line of posts connected at their tops by a heavy string piece, makes a famous gull-roost. Mr. Arthur Morley and I were pleasantly surprised on June 16 to find three Ring-billed Gulls resting there with others of the gull tribe. The small size of the Ring-billed, when perched beside a Herring Gull, is very evident and its flesh colored feet and legs and light colored bill with its dark ring complete the identification. The plumage of these Ring-bills, apparently approaching that of the adult, was similar to the winter dress of the Herring Gull. There were also present in the mixed company on the rail, one adult Laughing Gull and a hundred or more Bonaparte's Gulls. Along the sand inside the bulk-head we found a pair of Piping Plovers and four belated Semipalmated Sandpipers.

I visited the place again on July 14. This visit furnished a

* Bulletin 1922. Page 56.

pretty problem in gull identification. On the rail with the Herring, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls was a bird about the size of a Ring-billed but of quite different markings. Its head was white with a blackish spot back of the eye, its feet and legs were dull black while the sharp-pointed, somewhat down curved bill was greenish yellow with a slight black tip. On the folded wing was a peculiar bar, near the bend, which seemed a roughness or shirring of the feathers rather than a color variation. I decided to call the bird a Kittiwake and on looking at Fuertes' plate in Forbush's Birds of Massachusetts, I found the markings which I had so carefully noted down duplicated in the picture of a young Kittiwake. As the occurrence of Kittiwakes in Essex County in mid-summer is unusual I have given a careful summary of my notes on the spot. The close range at which I was able to observe the bird and the fact that I purposely ranged back and forward along the line carefully to compare it with birds of its own size as well as with birds larger and smaller, leaves me no ground to doubt the correctness of my identification. The Bonaparte's Gulls present at this visit showed a wide variation in plumage. Two birds had jet black heads and white tails, others ranged from heads that were dull black through smutty and patchy conditions to the small black spot back of the eye, characteristic of their winter dress.

July 28, I found five Ring-billed Gulls, one Laughing Gull, the usual hundred or so of Bonaparte's Gulls, a Dowitcher in summer plumage, five Sanderlings, about fifty Semipalmated Plovers and about a thousand Semipalmated Sandpipers. One Bonaparte's Gull with a jet black head and one with a dull black head were seen, while the smutty heads had nearly faded to winter conditions. Many Terns were present, as they were on nearly every visit to the locality, but I could find only birds with black-tipped red bills, indicating that only Common Terns visited the place this season.

August 25, there were present, two Ring-billed Gulls, two laughing Gulls in changing plumage (adults putting on winter garb), the usual number of Bonaparte's Gulls and a Ruddy Turnstone in summer dress. The marks of the Laughing Gulls were as follows: back of the head smutty, forehead lighter, broken white eye-ring deep slate mantle, end of tail white, legs and bill

dusky if not black—showing no reddish tint. Only one smutty headed Bonaparte's was seen, all the others had taken on winter plumage.

In company with S. G. Emilio I visited the place on September 6 and again on the 15th. On the first date we found several Bonaparte's Gulls and Common Terns and also several White-rumped Sandpipers. On the latter date we found one Ring-billed Gull and about twenty-five Terns.

HERRING GULLS NESTING IN SALEM BAY

RALPH LAWSON

The following letter received from Mr. Bernard B. Bancroft of Salem is most interesting:

“One Sunday sometime around the first of July, a party of five, myself included, landed on North Gooseberry Island to eat our lunch and found quite a lot of young Herring Gulls that were unable to fly. I could hardly credit it until I caught and examined a few of them and found that they were about four or five weeks old, so I made up my mind that they must have hatched there. I went looking about for nests and found at least twenty nests, and two whole eggs that were decayed, and quite a lot of broken shells. I took the eggs down to the beach and gathered a few large feathers, for blow pipes and a wire to break up the dead chicks, I blew them and after washing them out and soaking them for a couple of hours was able to dry them and take them home, where they are at present.”

Frank W. Benson, Esq., of Salem, tells me that when he was a boy fifty years ago there were no gulls nesting in the bay, and he believed at that time that these birds had not nested there for many years before owing to constant shooting and the collection of eggs. This may, therefore, be the first nesting there for nearly a century.

ALDER FLYCATCHERS

S. G. EMILIO

Whee-zeé bears some resemblance to the call note, or rather song, of the Alder Flycatcher. My introduction to the bird was effected by Messrs. Clarke, Perry and Brounstein on June 6, 1926. We met at Lowell Street station in the town of Wakefield and walked northeastward along the railroad toward Lynnfield Center. Scarcely a hundred yards from the station, Mr. Perry I think it was, heard the bird and in a moment I too, for the first time to recognize it, heard the *whee-zeé* of the Alder Flycatcher. This bird was in a rather forbidding appearing bit of swamp and we did not try to approach it. Nearer the Lynnfield Center station, and so well within the Essex county limits, two more birds were heard and one we managed to approach quite closely. Some of the party saw this bird under sufficiently favorable conditions to observe the decided brownish coloration of the plumage.

This flycatcher occasionally breeds in Essex county and I made two subsequent trips to the Lynnfield marshes but was unable to find a pair of birds or any evidence of nesting. On June 9 and again on the 20th, I found a single bird in song. It proved to be rather shy and would fly some distance and remain silent quite a while if approached too closely.

In late July while motoring in Maine I heard this species twice as we were rolling along at considerable speed. The call, though not loud, carries astonishingly well and can hardly be mistaken. I stopped and hunted up the first of these two birds to confirm the identification by ear.

SHRIKES AROUND A BANDING STATION

ARTHUR MORLEY

The present season has been anything but one of joy for the bird-bander or for the enthusiast who maintains a feeding shelf for birds, if the location happens to be known to a Northern Shrike, for these marauders certainly raise havoc with the small flocks of Juncos and Tree Sparrows.

Early in December I saw a Shrike alight on the top of a tall hickory tree, and one look around showed him a Junco and a

Tree Sparrow feeding under a pull-string trap. These two birds "froze" the instant the Shrike appeared but he saw them nevertheless and immediately swooped down straight into the trap. Simultaneously there was a dead Tree Sparrow and a fall of the trap making the Shrike a prisoner—only he did not know it, for he proceeded to dismember his victim right there. When I went out doors to take the Shrike I got to within six feet of the trap before he picked up the sparrow with his beak and tried to get away, whereupon he realized he was caught and was then quite willing to drop his prey. The bird made no fight whatever when I took it out of the trap and was easily banded. I then put it in a cage until next day.

Less than thirty minutes elapsed before my youngest boy came rushing into the house with the news that another Shrike was in the hickory. I stepped across to the dining room window and sure enough there was No. two in the same tree. This time two Juncos and an English Sparrow had been feeding and as before, had "frozen" on the appearance of the Shrike. Before the bird moved I pulled the trap but when I got out doors the Shrike had already dropped down, and, outside of the trap, was working at top speed, eyes following his intended victim, oblivious to everything except the business in hand. When I got too close this fellow simply flew up to a nearby bush and waited to see why I should "butt in" on his game. I worked gently and took out the two Juncos but left the English Sparrow in, and opened the drop of the trap. With the Shrike sitting so close I could have reached out and touched him I then stepped back several paces whereupon he deliberately rushed into the trap and the Sparrow was no more.

I kept both Shrikes until next morning when I fed them the birds they had killed, banded No. two and carried them off ten miles and released them. Ten days later one was recaptured in Brighton, Mass.

Since this occurrence I have caught two more and shot several, but still more have appeared. The small birds are pretty well driven out now so the Shrikes do not stay long. They surely do strike terror into the small winter resident birds and so far as I can see should be reduced in numbers for the benefit of all concerned.

THE BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER AT IPSWICH

S. G. EMILIO

It has been my good fortune to find the Buff-breasted Sandpiper two years in succession at Ipswich. August 26, 1925 in company with Dr. E. G. Rowland I saw an odd sandpiper among the scores feeding at Clark's Pond. It was larger than the innumerable Least and Semi-palmated Sandpipers about it and its buffy coloration made it quite conspicuous. We lay quietly on elevated ground and the bird obligingly came nearer to us, while feeding, and eventually ran along on a somewhat drier area than the smaller "peep" were frequenting not over ten yards from our feet.

The physical characteristics of size, length and shape of bill, length and color of tarsus and feather coloration were studied at leisure. The size, general coloration, short bill and rather long greenish-yellow tarsi, indicated at once the Buff-breasted Sandpiper but we were reluctant to identify our bird as such a rare visitor. Nevertheless after carefully checking observed points against the known physical characteristics of the other commoner species with which it might possibly be confused we were compelled to eliminate everything except the Buff-breast. This was my first meeting with the species in life.

September 12, 1926, from almost the same spot, I saw two friends some ways to the northwestward intently studying some bird. With the aid of my telescope I soon found what appeared to be a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at considerable distance. I approached at once and found the bird under observation to be in fact a Buff-breast. The sandpipers were restless that day and several times our bird took to the air with the host of shore birds present, but we easily found it again when they had all alighted to feed. As in the previous year the Buff-breast frequently left the water and wet mud for relatively drier areas.

JUNE SWANS

RALPH LAWSON

On Sunday morning, June 20, 1926 while sailing on Duxbury Bay I saw a flock of fourteen Swans about over Powder Point, flying in a northeasterly direction. These great white birds made a beautiful picture with sun and shadow alternately lighting and darkening their plumage and we followed them with our eyes until they disappeared out at sea off Scituate.

From reports received by Mr. Forbush it would appear that this flock followed the coast east beyond Nova Scotia.

A VERY LARGE FLIGHT OF GUILLEMOTS

RALPH LAWSON

November 21, 1926, while sailing in, and just outside of, Salem Bay with my friend John Robinson, we saw a most extraordinary number of Black Guillemots, all in winter plumage. The birds were nowhere in sizeable flocks, but at certain points, notably around Eagle Island bar, the water was dotted with individual birds which were evidently feeding. As no attempt was made at first to count the birds it is only possible to guess at their numbers, but a most conservative estimate would indicate not less than one hundred and fifty individuals and I am satisfied there were on that day over two hundred in Salem Bay and the waters immediately adjacent thereto.

I have since wondered if there was any connection between this flight of Guillemots and the great flight of Snowy Owls which was then at its height, as I have read that these owls prey upon Guillemots to some extent in the north. Incidentally we saw three Snowy Owls that same day, one on Tinker's Island and two on Marblehead Rock.

FEET TO TALONS?

RALPH LAWSON

During December 1926, a Northern Shrike apparently made his headquarters near Washington Square in Salem, where I had an opportunity to make many observations of his feeding habits.

I was particularly impressed with the extent to which this bird used his feet in moving and carrying the bodies of his victims, which were mostly English Sparrows, and I have wondered if evolution is slowly providing this species with feet suitable for properly handling its food. Several times I have seen Shrikes carrying objects with their feet, and on one occasion I saw this bird transfer a sparrow from his bill to his feet immediately after launching himself from the limb of an elm. I have never seen this transfer reversed as I suppose it would be unless the bird should alight on the ground or upon some roof or broad limb. I have seen other Shrikes use their feet to hold birds which were being eaten and my bird of last December once dragged the body of a sparrow several feet along the ground with the aid of wings and *one* foot only. I feel confident that on this occasion the foot was not caught in any way.

CALENDAR FOR 1926
ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
OF MASSACHUSETTS

JANUARY 11. Fourteen members present. List of species observed by club members during 1925 and prepared by Recorder Stubbs read and reviewed. General field notes.

FEBRUARY 8. Regular meeting. Nineteen members present. Mr. J. K. Myers of the Department of Agriculture of New Zealand spoke on the birds of that region and showed many lantern slides giving a general idea of the country. Field notes.

MARCH 8. Regular meeting. Eight members present. Evening devoted to general field notes.

MARCH 22. Regular meeting. Thirty-five members present. This was the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Club. Secretary Clarke of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Protective Association spoke on conservation and showed motion pictures of winter feeding stations and of Quail, Grouse and Heath Hens, also of Florida Pelicans and of the bird rocks of the north. A brief tribute was paid departed members. A social hour with refreshments followed.

APRIL 12. Regular meeting. Eight members present. Evening devoted to migration notes and general discussion. The possibility of publishing a "Directory of the Birds of Essex County" was discussed.

APRIL 26. Regular meeting. Twelve members present. It was voted to build up a collection of lantern slides of the birds of Essex County. It was voted to hold the annual Ipswich River Bird Trip on May 15 and 16. It was further voted to hold regular club suppers at the Club camp on Wednesday evenings during May and June.

MAY 10. Regular meeting. Eighteen members present. Communication of the evening from Dr. C. W. Townsend who told of his recent winter's trip through the southern states, starting down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers in October and

ending in Virginia in April. He visited the Rainey and Sage sanctuaries and worked along the Gulf coast from Brownsville to Pensacola thence north through Georgia and the Carolinas with the spring migration.

MAY 24. Regular meeting. Eleven members present. The Ipswich River Bird Trip of May 15th and 16th was reviewed and the list discussed and checked. General field notes.

JUNE 14. Regular meeting. Twelve members present. General field notes and discussion with particular reference to the recent shore bird migration.

SEPTEMBER 13. Regular meeting. Ten members present. Mr. W. G. Means spoke of his recent summer's trip hunting wild life with the camera, in the Rocky Mountains and Idaho. Mr. Emilio told of a summer camping trip in the White Mountains and across Maine to Mt. Desert. General field notes and summer records.

OCTOBER 10. Regular meeting. Seven members present. Mr. Jeffrey spoke of birds seen about Wayne Pond, Maine during the summer. Mr. Stubbs read a manuscript which he had prepared, on the Fay estate.

NOVEMBER 8. Regular meeting. Nine members present. Evening devoted to a discussion of the sparrows found in Essex County. General field notes.

DECEMBER 13. Regular meeting. Twenty-four members present. This was the annual meeting of the club. Officers were elected for the year 1927. Mr. G. E. Benson showed moving pictures taken by him while on a salmon fishing trip on the Kedgwick River in New Brunswick and while on wild fowl shooting trips at Providence, Rhode Island and Eastham, Massachusetts. Field notes.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE
ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
OF MASSACHUSETTS

Bates, Walter E.	279 Essex Street, Lynn
Beckford, Arthur W.	10 Park Street, Danvers
Benson, Frank W.	14 Chestnut Street, Salem
Benson, George E.	2 Chestnut Street, Salem
Bosson, Campbell	19 Brewster Street, Cambridge
Brown, Everett B.	86 Grove Street, Lynn
Bruley, Roger S.	64 Center Street, Danvers
Bryan, G. Warren	Y. M. C. A. Salem
Bushby, Fred W.	17 Washington Street, Peabody
Chase, Charles E.	31 Euclid Avenue, Lynn
Cogswell, Lawrence W.	288 Essex Street, Salem
Cushing, Milton L.	Box 374, Fitchburg
Doolittle, Albert W.	Burley Ave., Danvers
Doyle, John F. *	44 State Street, Boston
Emilio, S. Gilbert	156 Hobart Street, Danvers
Felt, George R.	85 Main Street, Peabody
Fletcher, Laurence B.	54 Cotswold Road, Brookline
Fowler, Albert B.	111 Locust Street, Danvers
Gifford, Lawrence W.	63 Federal Street, Salem
Gifford, Morris P.	17 Beckford Street, Salem
Goodale, Loring B.	1 Pope's Lane, Danvers
Hubon, William P.	25 Flint Street, Salem
Ingraham, Phocion J.	235 Lowell Street, Peabody
Jeffery, Thomas B.	Salem Willows
Jones, Gardner M.	Public Library, Salem
Kelley, Mark E.	52 Sutton Street, Peabody
Lawson, Ralph	88 Washington Square, Salem
Little, Philip	10 Chestnut Street, Salem
Long, Harry V.	260 Clarendon Street, Boston
Lord, J. Anderson	13 Ash Street, Danvers
Mackintosh, Richards B.	109 Central Street, Peabody
McNeill, David C.	33 Beckford Street, Beverly

Means, Robert W.	19 Pearl Street, Boston
Means, W. Gordon	108 Water Street, Boston
Moon, Wilbur D.	46 Maple Street, Lynn
Morley, Arthur	26 Minerva Street, Swampscott
Morrison, Alva	35 Congress Street, Boston
Morse, Albert P.	Peabody Museum, Salem
Morse, Frank E.	162 Boylston Street, Boston
Newhall, Milo A.	12 Temple Court, Salem
Nichols, Rodman A.	27 Broad Street, Salem
Osborne, Arthur A.	183 Lowell Street, Peabody
Phelan, Joseph C.	16 Pierce Road, Lynn
Phillips, Dr. John C.	Wenham
Porter, Willard B.	5 Lee Street, Salem
Preston, Charles H.	42 Preston Street, Danvers
Preston, Charles P.	42 Preston Street, Danvers
Proctor, George N.	35 Congress Street, Boston
Robinson, John	18 Summer Street, Salem
Ropes, Willis H.	33 Summer Street, Salem
Sears, Judge George B.	37 Cherry Street, Danvers
Smith, Fred A.	420 Maple Street, Danvers
Spofford, Charles A.	23 Elm Street, Danvers
Stubbs, Arthur P.	14 Fiske Avenue, Lynn
Taylor, Arthur W.	24 1-2 Briggs Street, Salem
Teel, George M.	2 Otis Street, Danvers
Tenney, Ward M.	60 East Street, Ipswich
Tortat, William R. M.	6 Perkins Street, Peabody
Townsend, Dr. Charles W.	Argilla Road, Ipswich
Walcott, Judge Robert	152 Brattle Street, Cambridge
Whitney, Charles F.	29 Pine Street, Danvers
Wilkinson, Robert H.	Hamilton

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Brown, C. Emerson	1829 Green Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
Clark, W. Hobart	364 Plantation, Ave. Worcester, Mass.
Cousins, Willard C.	8 Sargent Street, Hanover, N. H.
Donaldson, Major George C.	
Griffin, Bertram S.	Lock Box 17, West Newbury, Mass.
Moulton, Charles E.	R. D. 6 Belfast, Maine
Sanders, Richard D.	Brokers' Exch. Bldg., Norfolk, Va.
Spalding, Frederic P.	1016 Middlesex Street, Lowell, Mass.

PUBLICATIONS *of the*
ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

BULLETIN 1919 - Price 75 Cents
BULLETIN 1920 - Price 75 Cents
BULLETIN 1921 - Price 75 Cents
BULLETIN 1922 - Price 75 Cents
BULLETIN 1923 - Price 75 Cents
BULLETIN 1924 - Price 75 Cents
BULLETIN 1925 - Price 75 Cents
BULLETIN 1926 - Price 50 Cents

Check List of the Birds of Essex County - Price 10 Cents
Revised Check List - Price 25 Cents

The above may be obtained from Ralph Lawson, Secretary,
88 Washington Square, Salem, Mass.

or

S. G. Emilio, Treasurer, 156 Hobart Street, Danvers, Mass.

PUBLISHED MAY 9, 1927

MILO A. NEWHALL & CO., PRINTERS
SALEM, MASS.

Phillips Library



3 6234 10001523 2

